DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVI, no. 1 Section 1 January 2, 1925

COTTON STANDARDS Greatly increased powers for the Secretary of Agriculture to enable that official better to carry on in foreign countries negotiations for the recognition and the maintenance in foreign trade of the United States cotton standards are sought in a bill introduced in the Senate December 30 by Senator Ransdell. (Press, Dec. 31.)

VIRGINIA BARS POULTRY SHIPMENTS A Richmond, Va., dispatch to the press to-day states that shipment of poultry into Virginia unless accompanied by a permit from the United States Bureau of Animal Industry is forbidden under a proclamation by Gov. E. Lee Trinkle issued yesterday.

SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INDORSEMENTS The press to-day states that the American Association for the Advancement of Science yesterday tentatively indorsed the movement to change the calendar. The general council of the association directed its executive committee to draw up a resolution supporting a change to any feasible and usable plan. It was the sense of the council that it did not want to give its support to any one of the several proposals in prejudice to the others. It had before it a resolution from the economic and political science section indorsing the proposal advocated by M.B.Cotsworth, general director of the International Fixed Calendar League. This calendar would divide the year into twelve 28-day months, with one extra day to be observed at the end of the last week as "Year day."

The council also formally indorsed the movement to erect a national arboretum at Washington. Land would be purchased on Anacostia River for the purpose. Announcement of a grant of $350,000 to the association by the Rockefeller foundation was made by officers of the association. The money will be used for publication of abstracts and reviews of scientific articles on biological subjects.

IMPORTS The lower American imports of 1924, compared with 1923, are reflected in the fact that out of 10 leading suppliers only Mexico and Brazil have been selling to the United States more this year than last. Cuba, Canada, Japan and Great Britain, the four leaders, each sold less in the first nine months of this year than in the same period a year ago, and Straits Settlements, France, Germany and China are also in the loss column. In September a characteristic seasonal increase in imports set in. The strengthening was especially noticeable in imports of raw materials for domestic manufactures and in crude foodstuffs, according to an analysis of the foreign trade of the United States for the first nine months of the present year just published by the foreign commerce department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. "While the declines in our imports outnumber the gains, comparing the same period of 1923 and 1924, many commodities," says the department, "made decided increases in value. Coffee imports rose from $132,728,000 to $174,092,000, or 31% in value, and from 958,759,000 to 1,052,975,000 pounds, or 10% in quantity. Imports of furs increased in value from $69,980,000 to $96,919,000, or 39%. Unmanufactured tobacco increased 26% in value, from $45,998,000 to $57,708,000, but the quantity gain was only from 46,409,000 to 49,366,000 pounds, or 6%." (Press,Dec.31.)

Section 2

Agricultural Commission

The Las Vegas Daily Optic (New Mexico) for December 20 says: "....In the survey of agriculture there is no question that the farming industry needs to have a systematic analysis of its problems, and such a non-partisan survey as the President's commission on agriculture is authorized to accomplish will undoubtedly be productive of distinctive findings that will be of great and permanent benefit to the farming industry so that no such crisis as the recent experience will be suffered in the future....."

Business Indices

The Journal of Commerce for December 31 says: "There seems to be at present a very general conviction that rising prices, increases in commercial bank loans, larger tax receipts and expanding foreign trade are prima facie evidence of improved business. So it follows that statistics relating to such matters are frequently assembled without critical analysis and presented to the public as evidence of improvement, irrespective of the special attendant circumstances or the particular countries to which they relate. Consider, first of all, the question of rising prices so often accepted as an index of prosperity. It does not follow because rising prices offer a temporary stimulus to trade and industry that they can always be regarded as a sign of progress. Everything depends upon what prices have risen and the effect of the rise upon foreign trade balances. Clearly a price rise due to inflationary financial policies is no evidence of fundamental business prosperity, but the reverse....The rise in agricultural products has unquestionably been of advantage because it has helped to eliminate distributive inequalities at home without cutting off exports of farm products to foreign markets. But for many classes of commodities the general business outlook would be vastly improved by a downward rather than an upward price trend, which would give promise of better utilization of existing productive equipment....Likewise increased tax receipts and statistics relating to the growth of foreign trade need to be subjected to analysis before they are accepted as evidence of revived prosperity. Larger tax receipts may be offset by advancing prices, and expansion of exports may be a temporary phenomenon due to inflation. Consequently, the vast mass of statistical evidence presented to the public by writers of business surveys and professional forecasters may be used to deduce many, and frequently diametrically opposed conclusions."

Costs

Prof. T.N.Carver is the author of an extensive article entitled "The Incidence of Costs" in The Economic Journal (The quarterly journal of the Royal Economic Society, London) for December. In this Professor Carver says: "The elasticity of the supply of a commodity is determined mainly by the number and character of the alternatives that are available for the producers if they stop producing it. The supply on a special or limited market is likely to be highly elastic if there are other markets, equally good, that are capable of absorbing the entire supply. If any restriction of special cost is imposed on a product in a local market, the supply on that market will, of course, prove very elastic if the producers can sell on other markets. Here the alternative available for the producer is exceptionally good. The supply on a world market, or on the total market for any commodity, is less elastic than the supply on any part of that market. When there is no alternative market on which the producer can sell a given

product, his best alternative is to produce something else if he is so situated as to do so without considerable loss. If there is no such alternative open to the average producer, the supply is likely to be relatively inelastic. A large part of the wheat crop of the world, for example, is produced on land that is too dry for other crops for which there is a world-wide demand. If the price of wheat falls, the growers of most of it, that is, those that grow it on dry lands, have no other alternative but to stop farming. Only those on the very poorest or driest lands will do so unless the fall in price is considerable. If all the wheat of the world were grown under such conditions, the supply of wheat would be very inelastic. Some of it, however, is grown on moist land that is suitable for many other crops, such, for example, as Indian corn, or grass and beef. If the price of wheat falls to the producer, those that grow wheat in the humid belt can turn to other crops. This fact adds to the elasticity of the supply of wheat...."

Cotton Price The Wall Street Journal for December 30 says: "On Saturday, December 27, cotton at New York made advances of from $2.50 to $3.50 a bale, and on the following Monday continued the upward movement. The question now being asked is, will cotton continue to advance or is this merely a speculative flash in the pan? It might not be safe at this time to count on a great advance in cotton like that in wheat. The supply and demand at present appear to be too nearly balanced for any such prediction. Future events, however, such as any improvement in the manufacturing outlook at home or abroad, or, later, adverse new crop developments would have the same effect on the cotton market as has been seen in wheat. Cotton price gains have been in all future contracts as well as in spot cotton. The greatest advance, however, is in the distant futures. On November 5 the July contract was as low as 22.98. Last Saturday it went to 25.22 and closed at the highest point of the day. This principal increase in the distant contracts is a call for the trade to look into the future. What will it see? It will find an improvement in our industrial outlook and even a gradual change for the better in textile conditions. It will see the exchange of a few European countries at nearly a gold parity. It will see sterling exchange at the highest point since the official finger was removed. It will see Germany, a great industrial nation and a consumer of cotton, now practically on a gold basis, and gold shipped there from this country. It will see trade estimates of world consumption which would leave less than 3,000,000 bales of American cotton in the world carryover. Are these things to be viewed with complacency by those who are short in the cotton market? The question of the carryover is a ticklish one. If we were sure of another crop equal to this there might be less cause for anxiety. The experience of the past three years, however, shows the uncertainty of the cotton crop, none of those three crops being even equal to what is now estimated as the world consumption of American cotton. It is recognized and admitted on all sides that the size of the present crop is due entirely to a freak season. Up to the first of September it was a disappointment and only a phenomenal change in the weather arrested the deterioration and added enormously to the crop. But happenings so far out of the usual course of nature are not safe foundations on which to speculate. The facts of the situation point to a probability that cotton will have a substantial comeback."

Economic Research Journal

The American Review of Reviews for January, in its review of the first issue (January) of the Journal of Land and Public Utilities Economics, says: "The opening year brings at least one addition to the fairly large group of quarterly reviews devoted to special fields of research in this country. In January, the first number of the Journal of Land and Public Utilities Economics makes its appearance under the editorship of Professor Richard T. Ely, of the University of Wisconsin, who also presides over the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities. The first article in this initial issue of the new periodical comes from the pen of Dr. Ely himself. He sets a pace for his contributors that will not be easily maintained, for his six-page article is distinguished by a clarity and terseness of statement which some of our scientific journals, already veterans in their individual fields, would do well to emulate. Dr. Ely's topic is 'Research in Land and Public Utility Economics.' He points out at the outset that economic research to-day is a social necessity, because of the increasing complexity of relationships and the enhanced difficulty of adjusting properly the mechanism of supplying goods and services for the satisfaction of human wants. Formerly, research was something incidental to the real business of life, but now it has come to be one of the chief expressions of modern life.... "

Fruit and Vegetable Processing in Canada

The remarkable progress made in Canada in evaporating and canning fruits and vegetables is shown in a Canadian Pacific Railway bulletin which states that the fall season is producing a greater activity than ever. The plants in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia, and the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, the two great fruit districts at either end of the Dominion, have been exceptionally busy, while there is normal activity in other parts of Canada where conditions have justified the erection of plants. Much progress has been made in the fruit and vegetable packing industry of the Dominion since the last Government report two years ago. At that time the Dominion contained 229 plants, of which 117 were devoted to canning, sixty-four to evaporating, and forty-eight to preserving.

Grain Handling in Canada

The Grain Growers' Guide, (Winnipeg) for December 24 says: "The differences of opinion which marked the recent annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Co. are but another evidence of the necessity of cooperation between the farmers' companies and the wheat pools. There is no reason for agitation and destructive criticism in regard to the relationship between these organizations. All these grain handling institutions are owned by the farmers who produce the grain. The owners want only the best possible service in the marketing of their grain. Such service requires not only a marketing agency but an equally efficient handling system. The companies have for years operated the only farmer-owned handling and marketing systems. The pools have become the chief marketing agency since their establishment, but they have no elevator system. The farmers' companies are operating elevator systems quite as efficiently and economically as the pools could expect to do. The talk of the pools driving out the companies or the companies destroying the pools is the sheerest nonsense and can only result in conflict and great disservice to the farmers. The proper method is for the boards of these institutions to get together and work out a system by which the facilities of all can be utilized

most effectively. There is not the slightest reason why this method will not meet the situation provided they meet in the spirit of cooperation and with a recognition of the facts of the situation before them. The men have an opportunity to complete and perfect the system by which their grain is handled and marketed, and should not allow anything to stand in the way of such an achievement."

Parcel Post System

The Birmingham News for December 29 says: "One of the strongest arguments in favor of a parcel post system was that it would enable the farmers of the country to build up direct marketing businesses of their own. Thus, there would be a double advantage; the farmer would have an outlet for his product at better prices than he was enabled to obtain from wholesalers or jobbers, and the consumer would be able to buy satisfactory goods cheaper than he could after they had passed through the hands of several middlemen, and had been loaded with freight, overhead expense and several profits. It was pleasing at that time when the high cost of living was just beginning to make itself an issue. So, the bill was passed, parcel post put in operation, and every effort was made to develop a system of direct dealing between producer and consumer. In the main it was a dismal failure. There were some exceptions, but the institution has in nowise justified the prediction made for it. Figures compiled in the analysis of postoffice revenues incident to the discussion of the postal employees pay increase bill show that although the parcel post was primarily established for the benefit of the farmer, less than 10 per cent of the parcel post service is so employed."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Dec. 31: Chicago prices closed at $10.90 for the top and $9.80 to $10.70 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.50 to $13.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.35 to $11; feeder steers $4.25 to $7.35 and light and medium weight veal calves $9 to $13.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 45¢; Chicago 41 3/4¢; Philadelphia 45 1/2¢; Boston 44 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted December 31: No.2 red winter wheat Chicago $1.84 1/2; St.Louis $1.98; No.2 hard winter wheat St.Louis $1.76 to $1.78. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.28 3/4; No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.25 to $1.26; St. Louis $1.25 to $1.26 1/2; No.3 white corn Chicago $1.25 1/2; St. Louis $1.23 1/2; No.3 white oats Chicago 57 3/4 to 59¢; St. Louis 60 1/2 to 61¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 14 points, closing at 24.34¢ per lb. New York January future contracts up 28 points, closing at 24.34¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

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Vol.XVI, no.2 Section 1 January 3, 1925

GRAIN TRADING IN CHICAGO — A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that in the year ended December 26, 17,414,074,000 bushels of grains were traded in for future delivery. This is the first time these figures have been available at the end of the year. They show an aggregate of more than 500,000,000 bushels above those in 1923. Wheat furnished 54 per cent of the total and corn 32 per cent. Heaviest operations were in October, when 2,411,755,000 bushels of all grains were handled, the largest aggregate known since the Government assumed charge.

GRAIN CORNER DENIED — A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day says: "Declining to answer charges made by the Labor News, of Kansas City, that the Grain Futures act was being violated at Chicago, and that leading operators had engineered a 'corner,' F. L. Carey, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, declared that world grain shortage and not speculation caused the rise in grain prices."

BREAD WEIGHT — An editorial in The Washington Post to-day says: "The 'bread bill' which Senator Capper has introduced is supported by some interesting arguments on the part of its sponsor, which will bear looking into. The purpose of the measure is 'to establish standard weights for bread' throughout the country. Senator Capper declares that consumers of bakers' bread pay more than $300,000 a day, or over $100,000,000 a year, for bread which they do not receive, due to short weight. This is, as it were, in line with Senator La Follette's protest during the summer that the public was paying at least $300,000,000 more than was necessary each year for bread. Despite the slight discrepancy between the two senatorial estimates, if there is any truth whatever in the charges, the matter ought to be probed to the bottom. It seems incredible that the practice of short weights can be so firmly established throughout the country, when one considers the thrifty housewives in every community who know something themselves about baking. So large a sum as the Senator from Kansas--let alone he from Wisconsin--estimates would mean, on the basis of seven cents a loaf, that practically every baker in the United States operates light scales; is, in short, a trickster. Aside from this doubtful possibility, it seems strange indeed that the entire public whom they serve should have been taken in so long. It is the first time we ever heard of all the people being fooled all the time."

ANGLO-CHILEAN COMPANY SOLD — A London dispatch to the press to-day states that the stockholders of the Anglo-Chilean Nitrate and Railways Company, at an extraordinary general meeting January 2, unanimously approved the agreement with the Guggenheim interests in New York for the sale of the company's assets under the terms announced December 23. These provide for the sale of the assets for 3,600,000 pounds.

Section 2

Business Outlook

The Journal of Commerce for January 2 says: "Dangers for 1925 are, happily, comparatively few and easily perceived, at least so far as present knowledge permits a judgment. The outstanding one is the fear that what is called inflation may set in as a result of too great anxiety to push prices for commodities and securities rapidly ahead. With money as low as it is and conditions as favorable to the booming of prices as they are, there is a real basis for anxiety of this kind. Analogous to this possibility, also, is the prospect that we may overdo the foreign trade and foreign credit line of business this year, as we have on some former occasions. The prophecies held out are generous and attractive, but we are in little better position to judge accurately of the soundness of European credits than we were in former years, because we have devoted practically no study to them in the meantime. Then, too, it is to be remembered that we can not long continue to advance our cost of production as a result of high wages, short hours, and relative shortness of output if we expect to maintain prosperous business."

Dairying in 1925

An editorial in Hoard's Dairyman for January 2 says: "We entered 1924 with a period of rising prices for dairy products, but it was not long until prices declined and they failed to recover until nearly the close of the year. Production increased, reaching its highest point in July, a month later than usual. Imports came in and helped to cause prices to sag. With all this came increased feed costs for those who must buy, and there were many who said, 'Dairyin' don't pay'. It is always so. If we want to, we can submerge ourselves in the blue sea of despondency....Dairy farmers have good reason to look to the future with faith and hope, and their faith can be realized and their hopes come true in 1925 if they meet the issue with courage and understanding. Why do we have faith in dairying? The per capita consumption of dairy products is increasing in the United States and the signs point the same way in Europe as the war-torn countries get onto a more stable foundation. Our butter consumption is now back to its pre-war level, 17 pounds per capita. Consumption of whole milk has increased in six years from 43 gallons per capita to 53 gallons; while cheese, condensed milk, and ice cream have shown fair to good increases. Since 1900, total consumption of dairy products has increased from 67 billion pounds milk equivalent to 110 billion pounds, or a 65% increase. In the same period the number of milk cows has increased less than 20 per cent. Not only has the total consumption of milk and milk products increased by reason of increased population, but even more significant is the fact that the per capita consumption has increased from 776 pounds of milk equivalent ten years ago to 998 pounds in 1923. Definite figures are not yet available for 1924, but there is every indication that consumption is on the increase. Not only is domestic consumption of dairy products in a healthful condition, but the foreign outlook is better than for some time past....A contemplation of foreign and domestic markets, as well as an apparent decreased domestic production just appearing, bring hope and faith for better things. These better conditions will avail the poor dairyman little, but the man who is efficient and keeps efficient cows will take renewed hope of the future. The year of 1925 is full of promise for the American dairyman who will do his part."

Exports

Four out of every five of America's 33 leading foreign markets purchased more from this country during the first nine months of 1924 than during the same period of 1923, according to an analysis made public

January 2 by the foreign commerce department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The following comparative figures are taken from the department's report: "Great Britain, in taking nearly one-fifth of our total exports, increased her purchases from $554,000,000 to $603,000,000--a gain of 9%. This is considerably better than her gain of 5% during the first half of 1924. Germany, our third best market, increased her purchases from $224,000,000, the 1923 figure, to $282,000,000, or 26%. France bought 10 millions more, her purchases rising from $180,000,000 to $190,000,000, 6% higher than in 1923. Our exports to Cuba increased from $144,000,000 to $148,000,000, or 3%. Italy's purchases were 9% higher than a year ago, our exports increasing nearly 10 million dollars, from $110,300,000 to $120,100,000. Exports to Mexico increased 10% from $89,000,000 to $98,000,000; to Austria, 8%, from $87,000,000 to $95,000,000; and to the Netherlands 18%, from $78,000,000 to $92,000,000. Canada and Japan, second and fifth, respectively, in the list of our best customers, bought less this year than last. These 10 countries constituted our 10 leading markets, taking 71% of our entire exports--2 billions and a quarter out of a total of slightly more than 3 billions dollars."

Farm Mortgages in Canada

An editorial in The Grain Growers' Guide (Winnipeg) for December 24 says: "In the operations of the agricultural industry in this country an enormous volume of credit is required. Farmers are using more than $200,000,000 of capital in the form of mortgage loans. The rates of interest charged, the terms and conditions of the contracts and the relations between the borrowers and lenders, are matters of importance. Yet there has never been any organization through which the representatives of the borrowers and lenders could get together to discuss their mutual problems with view to the improvement of conditions. An effort was made eight years ago when the Canadian Council of Agriculture and the mortgage loans associations of the three provinces held a conference. This effort was renewed last week, when committees from the same organizations spent two days in Winnipeg in conference. The report of the meeting indicates complete agreement upon several important matters of vital importance to the welfare and future development of agriculture. Both parties agreed that lower rates of interest are essential and that the security of the farms warrants lower rates, and that steps should be taken to correct some of the conditions which affect interest rates. For some years there has been a tendency in these provinces to enact legislation putting many charges against land in the form of taxes, and making them payable before mortgage interest. The responsibility for such legislation must be shared by governments, and farmers, and also by some of the mortgage companies, who, by unreasonable attitudes at times, practically forced legislative interference. Yet the net result of such legislation has been to make it more difficult, and in extreme cases an impossibility for mortgage companies to collect their interest, while at times they have lost a good portion of the principal. This result has been reflected in higher interest rates which the mortgage companies have charged to make up their losses. Some of this type of legislation is justifiable on the ground that mortgage companies are members of the community and should share in the responsibilities of community welfare. Much of such legislation, however, has shown an utter disregard of the economic principles involved. Instead of beating the mortgage company and helping the farmer the reverse has actually been the result. The conference has wisely asked the governments to review carefully all such legislation,

and eliminate all that was not in the best interest of the community at large. It is absolutely essential in the best interest of the farmers that a first mortgage remain a first mortgage, and that its standing be recognized in the money markets of the world, in order that it shall command the lowest rates of interest. Some of the unwise legislation has already been repealed, but there is yet considerable that ought to go. If the governments adopt the suggestions of the borrowers and lenders they will be helping in placing farm credit upon a sounder basis. So long as this country in large areas suffers from serious climatic conditions, mortgage payments can not always be met promptly, but everything possible should be done towards that end, as heavy arrears and losses all add to the cost of the business, and, consequently, to the rate of interest. The recognition of 8 per cent, as a maximum rate of interest, except on small amounts, is a decided step in advance, and with the correction of conditions the rate should move steadily downwards. While 8 per cent is recognized as a maximum conditions even today warrant a lower rate in the older and better-settled portions of the country. There is a strong demand on the part of the farmers that the borrowing power of the national government be used to provide money at lower rates, but if the private companies organize their business and conditions are made satisfactory, they should be able to render service on terms practically as favorable as governments."

Foreign Trade

The Trade Record of the National City Bank of New York, in its issue of December 27, says: "The ebb and flow of trans-oceanic commerce, which has come with the big increase in world shipping, brings some curious anomalies in the interchange of the products of the land areas of the world. Formerly we were large importers of rice and had no idea that we should ever do otherwise; but now we are not only supplying the rice demand of our 110 million people but exporting rice at the rate of a million pounds per day, much of it to countries with climatic conditions suggesting great rice possibilities. Another peculiar feature of our present interchange is the big exportation of fruits, usually looked upon as tropical, but now being sent by temperate zone United States to the tropical and sub-tropical areas, many of them former producers of this same fruit. We sent abroad in the last fiscal year eight million dollars worth of prunes, part of them going to France and other sections of southern Europe where they were formerly grown, and from which we had to import them for our own use. Our exports of prunes, raisins, oranges and other fruits formerly looked upon as tropical are now over 20 million dollars a year, and we take in exchange many articles of which we are expected to be large producers. Great Britain alone, whose colonies extend the tropical world over, took from us in the last fiscal year over 4 million dollars worth of prunes, oranges and raisins, and in exchange sent to this, the greatest agricultural country of the world, millions of dollars worth of hides and skins. Bristles are also a curiosity of international trade. We are the world's greatest producer of swine and send millions of them to slaughter every year, yet the quality of the bristles of the 'razor back' swine of the Orient differs so much from that of the refined American hog that our importation of bristles, chiefly for use in the manufacture of brushes, now averages about five million dollars every year and has in the past decade totaled nearly 60 million dollars, a very large proportion coming to us from China."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

In an editorial on the office of Secretary of Agriculture, The Country Gentleman for January 3 says:"....The time has come in the development of farming in America and in the upbuilding of the Department of Agriculture when the one greatest need is for recognition of agriculture as business. We need business in farm organization. We need business methods to control surplus. We need business in the marketing of farm products. The President's Agricultural Commission will find that these economic problems and not any problems of production are what is the matter with farming to-day. The problems of production have been largely taken care of so far as they lie outside the hand of God. But just as the manufacturer learned years ago that making things was not enough--that he must sell what he made and build up a separate organization within his business to handle that selling end--so the farmer must understand that growing things is not the whole of farming; that he, too, must build up a selling force to handle his output in competition with the whole world and to see that he gets a price that includes a profit....It is a business man that is needed to-day, to coordinate the legacies of Wilson and Houston and Meredith and Wallace, and to carry forward the Government's aid to farming along business lines. When a manufacturer sees his business tottering, going sour and sick, to whom does he call for assistance? To another manufacturer in the same line? Not at all. He summons an industrial engineer, who can study the business with an impartial but sympathetic eye, ferret out its weaknesses and point out ways to strengthen and rebuild the organization. Equally, American agriculture, suffering because it can not control its surpluses and market its goods to profitable advantage, should seek the guidance of a successful business man--a business man farm born, farm-minded, sympathetic with farmers as such a man would be, understanding their problems, but understanding,too, the fundamentals upon which business has made its great forward strides. Industry has learned to organize; farming is just struggling with the rudiments of organization. Industry has learned to control surplus, to sell abroad without breaking home markets, to meet world competition; farming can learn all those things, and quickly, too, if it will just lay aside the antagonisms and suspicions that have kept it from profiting by the experience of business. With such a business man heading the department at Washington--there to build and not to tear down what has already been so admirably done--the farmers of America could hope for such leadership as would make unnecessary any new relief legislation, whether socialistic, paternalistic or cooperative. Even now within the department is all the machinery that is necessary, without new and expensive advisory boards. Farming is on the upgrade. The next ten years will without doubt see it as one of the most successful of American enterprises. But it will move forward faster and with surer steps if President Coolidge names as its chief counsel and adviser a Secretary who is a farm-minded business man."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Jan.2: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.10 for the top and $10.10 to $10.90 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.50 to $13.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.50 to $11; feeder steers $4.25 to $7.25; light and medium weight veal calves $8.50 to $12.25; fat lambs $14.50 to $17.60; feeding lambs $14 to $16.50; yearlings $12 to $15.50; fat ewes $6 to $9.75.

New York sacked Round White potatoes higher at $1.50 to $1.55 per 100 lbs. in Philadelphia; $1.60 to $1.65 in Pittsburgh. Maine sacked Green Mountains $1.10 to $1.15 in Boston; bulk stock 60 to 65¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle, Me. New York and midwestern sacked yellow onions $3 to $3.25 per 100 lbs. eastern cities. Danish type cabbage from New York $25 to $28 bulk per ton in Pittsburgh, top of $38 in Philadelphia. Delaware and Maryland yellow varieties of sweet potatoes $2.40 to $2.75 per bu. hamper in eastern markets. Eastern York Imperial apples $5.50 to $6 per bbl. in New York. New York Rhode Island Greenings $6.50. Northwestern Extra Fancy Jonathans $3.35 to $3.50 per box in Chicago.

Hay prices quoted: No. 1 timothy--Pittsburgh $21, Cincinnati $19.50, Chicago $23, Minneapolis $18.50. No.1 alfalfa--Omaha $17.50. No.1 prairie-Omaha $12.50, Chicago $18, Minneapolis $16.50.

Feed prices quoted: Minneapolis--spring bran $31.50, spring middlings $33, 34% linseed meal $47.50. Chicago--gluten feed $40.80, hominy feed $47.50. Memphis--36% cottonseed meal $37. 60% digester feeding tankage at various markets $60.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 45¢; Philadelphia 45 3/4¢; Boston 44 1/2¢.

Closing cheese prices on Wisconsin primary markets December 31: Twins 22¢; Daisies 23¢; Double Daisies 22 1/2¢; Longhorns 23¢; Square Prints 24¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 56 points, closing at 23.78¢ per lb. New York January future contracts declined 67 points, closing at 23.67¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

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Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

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AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION The President's agricultural commission, appointed to recommend measures for agricultural relief, will convene at the Department of Agriculture to-day after a recess of six weeks. The members will meet, Chairman Robert D. Carey, cattleman and former Governor of Wyoming, has announced, with the expectation of arriving quickly at a decision on means of relieving distress among livestock men. The cattle industry and cooperative marketing also are before the commission for priority consideration. Members of the commission said yesterday it was hoped to present to the present Congress some relief legislation and they were of the opinion that such legislation should be purely of an emergency nature and not designed for a long-time policy. Assistance for the cattlemen, it was thought, would be sought chiefly through financial and tariff channels. It is planned to establish connection with banking organizations now dealing with livestock men and to devise a program which would meet the support of the bankers. Further relief is expected to be found in the marketing end of the industry. Before concluding its recommendations regarding cooperative marketing of agricultural products, the commission plans to confer with leaders of the National Council of Cooperative Marketing Associations, which is to meet here the forepart of the week. It is understood others will be asked to appear at hearings of the body.(Press, Jan. 5.)

BREAD BILL Action at this session on a measure to standardize bread loaves and to require all loaves in interstate commerce to be full weight was urged January 3 in the House by Representative Brand, who introduced a bill for this purpose at the last session. (Press, Jan.4.)

LAND BANKS OFFER BONDS A New York dispatch to the press to-day states that improved agricultural conditions have made it possible for the Federal Land Banks to inaugurate their 1925 financing program with the smallest public offering of bonds in the last five years. The issue, comprising $30,000,000 of 4 1/2 per cent bonds, will be placed on the market to-day by the twelve banks in association with a Nation-wide syndicate, headed by Alex. Brown & Sons of Baltimore. Two factors have contributed to the reduction in the amount of current financing, according to a statement by the Farm Loan Board. These are the improvement in farm conditions, resulting in a slightly lessened demand for new loans, and a substantial increase in prepayments. At the same time steady and substantial purchases of Farm Loan bonds by the Veteran's Bureau for the Government's insurance fund are credited with providing a large portion of the funds for loaning purposes.

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE With pastoral and agricultural conditions as favorable if not better than during any preceding period, Australia has completed one of the most prosperous years of its existence, according to a cable received from Sydney yesterday by J.A.M.Elder, Australian Commissioner to the United States. (Press, Jan.5.)

Section 2

Agricultural Program of U.S. Chamber of Commerce

A wide range of effort to bring into common focus the interests of business and agriculture is indicated in the plan of activities of the bureau of agriculture of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, outlined for the coming year. The work contemplated includes: (a) A survey of activities of chambers of commerce, banks, railroads, and other business organizations in behalf of developing better agriculture in the trade territories from which these bodies draw their business. (b) A study of decentralization of manufacturing in its relation to the betterment of the status of regional agriculture. (c) A study to arrive at some conclusions as to the feasibility of working out State and regional agricultural production programs. (d) A study of the methods used and results obtained by outstanding types of farmers' cooperative organizations. (e) A survey of some of the problems involved in determining the relations of electricity to agriculture. (To-day's Business, January.)

Agricultural Research

The Antigo (Wis.) Journal for December 29 says: "Comparatively few farmers realize the relation that should exist between the investigators of agricultural problems and agriculture in general. Too many still regard our scientific men as unpractical theorists whose principal function is to look wise and wear white collars. They say that it is impossible for a man who has never worked on a farm to be in a position to tell the farmer anything that will be of value to him....The principal reason why great forward strides have been made by our large industrial institutions in recent years is because they have employed scientific men to work out problems that can not be solved by the workmen who do not understand the laws underlying the properties of matter with which they deal. Recently we had the great pleasure of visiting the research laboratory of one of America's greatest industrial concerns. There we saw how much industry depends upon science and more than ever realized the important place the scientist of to-day occupies in the industrial world. The thought struck us forcibly that if the farmer would listen to the scientist and follow his suggestions as willingly and as rapidly as the industrialist does, agriculture would gain more rapidly in efficiency. Our agricultural experiment stations bear the same relation to agriculture as do the great research laboratories to our manufacturing institutions. The principal difference is that the former are maintained for the farmer at public expense while the latter are maintained by the manufacturers at their own cost. Agricultural scientists have been busily at work for the last 50 years, yet thousands of farmers are still in doubt as to whether scientific investigations in behalf of agriculture are worth while. If our greatest industrial organizations can profit by the investigations of the scientist and feel the need of his assistance in their business, why should not the farmer look to the agricultural scientist to help solve his problems which in many respects are more urgent, more complicated and more difficult of solution? Let the farmer look to his experiment stations for help and assistance and give them his most hearty support. They are worth infinitely more to him than their cost."

Agriculture 1

An editorial in The Florida Times-Union for January 1 says: "Agricultural statisticians have determined, from official figures, that the population of this country is pressing upon its food resources.

The per capita crop production in the last twelve years has decreased 5 per cent, they find, although the general crop production has increased 13 per cent. This means that the population of the United States is increasing more rapidly than the volume of products of the soil.....The number of farms or of farmers must be increased--such seems to be the first remedy that suggests itself. But how? The tendency of the farm population to drift to the cities continues. We can not draft men and families from the civic population and put them on farms. Neither can we stay the tide from the farm to the city. Yet there is a more plausible means of reaching this end. Why not modify the immigration law and invite farm colonies from the agricultural countries of Europe, especially from the north of Europe? Every immigrant that settles in a city is, for a while at least, a handicap to the general wealth. He may in time become a useful citizen, a producer of wealth. But for his first years in this country he is rarely either. On the other hand, every immigrant that settles on a farm, or engages in farm work, becomes a producer from the first. Even as a farm laborer he is no detriment to the country. As is well known, farm labor is scarce in almost all parts of the country. There has been less trouble from that source in Florida than in any other State in the Union. The provision fixing the number to be admitted from any one country at a certain percentage of those already here of that nationality might be suspended to admit farmers coming in colonies.... Under such regulations even Chinese might be admitted--but not Japanese. It would be foolish not to learn from the experience of California the danger of admitting the latter nationals, even as farmers. But the Chinese--'Farmers for Forty Centuries'--as tillers of the soil are wonderful farmers, highly productive, quiet, peaceable, not scheming to run their white neighbors off their farms. If the inverse ratio of crop production to the population of the country continues economists must arouse to the danger. Obviously, it must be taken in time. That intensive cultivation. that arduous enrichment of the soil, practiced by the farmers of certain farming districts of Europe, and by the Chinese, on their 'handkerchief farms' would be useful as object lessons to their American neighbors."

Agriculture 2 The Journal of Commerce for December 2 says: "Perhaps with some degree of propriety the agricultural problem may be regarded as a political as well as an economic question, but nevertheless the fact remains that the purchasing power of the farmer, which is governed by his returns from his crops, has a tremendous weight in lifting the prosperity of the country as a whole, as well as that of a great class of its citizens. More than anything else, however, the agricultural problem is a scientific one in the sense that farm operations must be adjusted more nearly to the operation of the law of supply and demand to obviate the recurrence of wide fluctuations in farm values which follow upon crop production induced by the whim of the planter or the failure of markets to absorb an output which bears no relation to consumers' needs. Credit is no longer a problem to be considered by the administration in studying the general farm situation, since, if anything, the farmer has had too much credit, and there are ample Government facilities for supplying him with more. It is in some sections of the agricultural scheme, such as the cattle industry, that the delicate problems of deflation which must be attacked in order that herds mortgaged at peak prices may be liquidated at present day

levels. The financing of the cattle industry, when many thousands of head represent the security for loans made at twice their present value, presents a difficulty which the administration must overcome to bring agriculture as a whole to the position which of late has been occupied by some of its parts."

Business

The Magazine of Wall Street for January 3 says: "Year-end adjustments in trade and industry have served to retard the upward trend of business for the time being but resumption of the forward movement may be expected in the immediate future. Although the gains in some industries have been truly spectacular, the total volume of business still remains below that of the peak of 1923. Taking a broad view of the situation, however, it is quite probable that profits in the first quarter of 1925 will be on a satisfactory basis."

Cotton Situation

An exhaustive report on the world cotton situation was made public to-day by the agricultural bureau of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. A steady decline in production in the United States, accompanied by increase in price of the American staple has been reflected in increasing activity on the part of foreign governments to develop potential cotton areas outside of America, as well as in a slowing down of demand for finished mill products, according to the report. While the chamber's agricultural bureau does not believe that there is any immediate danger that the United States will lose its position of dominance in the world cotton markets, yet it is convinced that the situation demands more aggressive efforts to stabilize production. The report suggests that one way to stabilize production is by means of increased yields per acre. This, it is pointed out, automatically would reduce production costs and give the grower a just margin of profit, as well as permitting cotton to sell at a price which would tend in increase consumption. "The most serious obstacles in the path of increased cotton production in the United States," the report goes on to say, "are adverse weather conditions, the boll weevil, a labor shortage and poor farming. It is estimated that for the past six years the South annually has failed to produce four million bales of cotton as a direct result of the cotton boll weevil. While calcium arsenate has been proven to be an efficient agent for the control of the weevil, in 1923 less than 5 per cent of the total cotton acreage of the South was treated with this poison. Early fall destruction of cotton stalks is an economical means of reducing weevil damage the following year. As yet a relatively small percentage of cotton planters practice this. In many sections of the South climatic conditions prevent early fall plowing of stalks as a weevil-control measure. There is need for a cheaper poison than calcium arsenate at the present market price, for the benefit of the marginal producer of cotton. Many cotton-producing areas in the South show serious depletion of soil fertility due primarily to one-crop farming. There is need for reorganization of farm practice in the Cotton Belt to the end of restoring soil fertility and eliminating some of the hazards of the single-crop farming. A wider use of legumes and better land drainage would prove of great benefit....." The report discusses the cost of producing cotton. "Figures on cotton production costs vary widely", it says. "The determining factor being rate of yield per acre. The available data show that this cost runs from $1.45 a pound for lint for yields of 20 pounds of lint and under per acre, to 9 cents a pound for yields of 500 pounds and over."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

Harlan P. Kelsey, president of the Association of American Nurserymen, writing to the Florists Exchange for December 27 says: "May I call particular attention to the fact that the situation with regard to the Japanese beetle embargo is quite similar to that of the gipsy and brown tail quarantines in New England; namely, that the F.H.B. have made the nurserymen the goat in the case of New England and apparently propose to make the nurserymen the goat in the New Jersey-Pennsylvania beetle area by imposing restrictions on this industry beyond those imposed on other industries which are quite, or in some cases even more, liable to spread the pests than are the nurserymen. Every nurseryman wants to cooperate with the Federal authorities in controlling plant pests and diseases, but either the industry perishes or else the Federal Horticultural Board must be reorganized so that a single Government body will not be judge, jury and witness without hope of appeal; and, secondly, so that the nursery industry may be put on exactly the same basis as other industries with regard to restrictions and that a reasonable anticipated limit may be placed on interstate shipments so that the nursery industry can get back on a stable basis again without the constant fear of being annihilated over night....Proper regulation of industry and individuals is absolutely necessary in civilized communities, but unregulated regulation or regulations run mad seems to be the goal to which we are fast approaching in America to-day. The time has come when either nurserymen must receive reasonable treatment or the industry will be ruined and, as you know, that means in the end that the American people will pay a tremendous price for this fever of regulation we are now experiencing. A disease may be bad, but there are some cures that are even worse. I have admired the 'Florists Exchange' for the fair way they have tried to treat both the F.H.B. and the trade at large, yet I have sometimes thought that you were not supplied with all the facts in the case and have not fully realized the tremendous import of the trend of the Federal Horticultural Board's activities. Has the time not come for a complete investigation and settlement on more fair, equitable and sound basis of the whole question of quarantine regulations, both State and Interstate? This means, if necessary, getting legislation and defining most carefully the exact powers of the governmental regulating bodies."

An editorial on the same subject, in the same issue, says: "Without in the least minimizing the dangers represented by the Japanese beetle or any other pest, it may be noted that according to the F.H.B, no distribution of the beetle has yet resulted from the interstate shipment of certified stock. Also that, in the opinion of leading growers located in the heart of the beetle territory, it has not, as an insect pest, done any appreciable amount of injury to their stocks since it first appeared there. (Of course the loss in business and in the cost of precautions is another matter.) In these circumstances is there justification for the establishment of still more severe restrictions by separate States, for the imposing of additional burdens on legitimate business already sustaining a huge load of regulatory control? Especially in view of the statement made by one official that, of all plant material received by it from outside, the material from the very States which have made the loudest demands for right to protect themselves, has been among the poorest and least free from disease and insect infestation!"

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products For the week ended January 3: In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is steady to $1 higher; veal 50¢ to $2 higher; lamb $2 to $6 up; mutton $1 to $5 and pork loins $1.50 to $3 higher. January 3 prices good grade meats: Beef $13 to $17; veal $17 to $20; lamb $28 to $31; mutton $16 to $18; light pork loins $18 to $21; heavy loins $15 to $17.50.

Sacked Round White potatoes from New York 20 to 25¢ higher at $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 lbs. in eastern markets; $1 to $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage up $10 at $25 to $40 bulk per ton in consuming centers; $18 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow onions about steady at $2.75 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples $6 to $6.50 per bbl. in Chicago, $5.50 to $6 in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 44 1/2¢; Chicago 41 3/4¢; Philadelphia 45 1/2¢; Boston 44 1/2¢.

Wheat market about 3¢ lower for week but general situation firm as butter export demand again develops. Better foreign demand for flour but principal sales recently were of Canadian flour. Corn market weaker and prices declined about 4¢ for week.

Butter markets steady to firm at close of week ending January 3, although a nervous and unsettled condition prevailed most of the week.

Cheese markets firm with prices averaging 1/2¢ higher than previous week. Trade fair but irregular. Closing prices on Wisconsin primary markets January 2: Daisies 23¢; Double Daisies 22 3/4¢; Longhorns 23¢; Square Prints 24¢.

Average prices of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 40 points during week, closing at 23.89¢ per lb. New York January future contracts declined 45 points, closing at 23.80¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

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DAILY DIGEST

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THE PRESIDENT ON COOPERATION

Cooperative marketing can and should be made a success in America, because it provides the best means of stabilizing the country's agricultural marketing organization, President Coolidge declared January 5 before the annual convention of the National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations. Addressing delegates to the convention at the White House, the President warned that cooperative marketing possessed no magical attributes, and asserted that it must start from the soil and be developed upward. The President also advised that cooperative marketing be preached as a principle, not as a panacea. "It will not perform miracles," he said. "It will not accomplish the impossible. But it is a sound, tried, demonstrated principle that must be introduced as the basis of our agricultural establishment....More than anything else we need a generation of farmers trained to cooperation; and to get that we need able, courageous, determined leadership, and most of all leadership that will not desert the farmer, but will stay by him."

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The press to-day states that the President's agricultural commission went to work January 5 on its program for immediate relief measures for the livestock industry. The commission is considering aid for the cattlemen through finance, tariff, transportation and marketing. It is their plan to recommend a relief program within two weeks.

TRADERS ACCUSE PACKERS

The press to-day states that action in the near future by Secretary Gore is expected on complaints against Armour & Co. and Swift & Co., charging the packers with discrimination against traders at the Chicago Union stockyards. Proposals by the packers to settle the case without hearings were accepted by a committee of hog traders and are to be placed before the Secretary. It is understood the proposals would bind the packers to buy hogs on their merit from traders, as well as commission houses.

WAR FINANCE BOARD CLOSING

The War Finance Corporation took the initial step January 5 toward winding up its affairs, cancelling and retiring, with the approval of Secretary Mellon, $499,000,000 of its $500,000,000 capital stock. The corporation directors and Secretary Mellon believe the outstanding $1,000,000 of capital stock, with available funds from repayment of loans, will be sufficient to take care of all pending requirements. The power of the corporation to make new advances expired with the end of the year. (Press, Jan. 6.)

NATIONAL FOREST BILL

The House yesterday passed a bill providing for exchange of about 697,000 acres of timber lands less valuable for forestry purposes for other lands to be added to the Umatilla, Wallowa and Whitman national forests in Oregon. (Press, Dec. 6.)

Section 2

Agricultural Year

The Wall Street Journal for January 5 says: "Agriculture cheerfully speeds the departing and welcomes the coming year. Since early summer conditions began to improve. They have steadily grown better, so that the year ends in striking contrast with four years of depression. Agriculture welcomes the coming year because 1924 did not exhaust all the improvement. The future still holds promise for the farmers. The situation may be summed up as a great gain over the past and assurance of something still better in the present year....With the exception of sheep the livestock industry is the one unsatisfactory feature. Cattle and hogs, both in price and production, move in regular cycles. They have been going through the lowest of their price cycle and there is evidence of future improvement. The livestock situation in Europe also justifies belief that before next autumn prices for hogs and pork will be materially advanced. The unsatisfactory feature then may well be that the producers have not enough stock to sell. But what holds out the most hope for the farmers is the approach of farm and other commodity prices to a common level. In November, 1923, the price index of farm products stood at 145 and that of all commodities at 151. In November of this year farm commodities had moved up to 149.5, while the all commodity index stood at 152.7. The purchasing power of the farmer's dollar, which a year ago was about 73 cents, is now equal to 90. Farmers are not yet out of the woods. The years of depression left them with accumulated debts which they have been repaying through the harvest of this year. Let it be remembered that the farmers make up the largest consuming class of any in the world and when their industry was depressed they did not buy as in prosperous years. There must be an accumulation of needs implying larger purchases in the future. Another year of good harvests at reasonable prices and with the price index close to parity should call forth that purchasing power to its full limit."

British Land Law

A London dispatch to the press of January 3 says: "The land law of England enters upon a new and, what many claim to be, an even more confusing chapter on Jan. 1, 1925, when the Birkenhead act of 1922 becomes operative. Lord Birkenhead's act is one of the longest statutes that has ever passed through Parliament, and the lawyers say that its full meaning will not be clear for at least 100 years. The chief aims of the act are three: To destroy the unnecessary legal differences between land and movable goods; to make dealings with land simpler and safer, and to make all land available for sale or disposal at any time. Whether it will succeed in these aims is still doubtful, for no English statute dealing with the law of land has ever brought the exact results contemplated by its sponsors. In theory, England is a thoroughly socialistic state, the crown alone being the 'owner' of land. In fact, individuals are owners, although the holders of fee-simple or freehold estate, the equivalent of American full ownership, often pay a yearly rental, from a peppercorn to gilt spurs or a white rooster at Christmas. Below freeholders rank a vast body of copyholders whose more limited ownership does not allow them to dig large holes or make long leases without the customary tribute to the lord of the manor. The reforming statute worked out by a committee of barristers and adopted by Lord Birkenhead, will have the following effects: Abolish copyhold and customary tenures; abolish estates tail in law, while retaining them, along with settlements, in equity; abolish primogeniture and

village customs of descent; keep 'equities off the title'; abolish tenancy in common; make real personal property devolve according to the same rules. One of the greatest evils of English land law, the perpetual rent charge, forever to be paid out of a given piece of land, is untouched by the new law. Its provisions do not deal with the evil of long leases or with difficulty of tracing titles, and it offers no solution to the problem of restrictive covenants and 'servitudes.'"

Citrus Fruit Regulations A Los Angeles dispatch to the press of January 3 states that citrus growers of five southern California counties, meeting at Los Angeles with officers of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, decided to indorse and strongly support county regulations which will prevent the shipping of oranges and lemons commercially damaged by the recent freeze. It was decided after a lengthy discussion not to ask the legislature to make any changes in the present State law governing fruit shipment until a final survey of the groves is completed and an estimate made of the loss. Then, it is expected, the legislature will be asked to make the present statute more effective and drastic. The counties represented in the meeting were Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange and Ventura.

Distribution Conference Thirty-seven trade groups, covering virtually the entire field of merchandising and distribution, will be represented at the opening session of the National Distribution Conference, to be held in Washington January 14 and 15 under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, according to a statement issued by that organization. , Among the spokesmen for these groups will be distributing manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers, commission men, brokers and retailers, in addition to economists and representatives of the consuming public. Six avenues of approach to the study of the general problem of distribution and its effect upon retail price levels are indicated in the tentative program for the initial session of the Conference. These are: The collection of business statistics as a means toward the accomplishment of economies in distribution; The regulation and improvement of trade relations; Advertising and advertising mediums; Expenses of doing business; Methods of distribution; General conditions affecting distribution. A wide field of inquiry is to be covered by a committee which will deal with the expenses of doing business. It will report on the various services which contribute to the facility of distribution, the adoption of uniform cost systems, economical rates of turnover, and simplification in relation to the number of varieties, styles and sizes. Under the subject of methods of distribution a study will be made of the causes for various distribution channels. General conditions affecting distribution include legislation affecting distribution, Government relations to distribution and the aid that may be given by Government departments and bureaus and the method of promoting a wider understanding of distribution, the expenses attending it and the reasons for prevailing practices.

Grain Exchanges Frank L. Carey, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, in a message to the press of January 3, says: "Grain exchanges never have been and perhaps never will be able to keep out of politics. Like the railroads, traction companies and other public utilities, they constitute an easy mark for the politician. Someone is always dissatisfied and such unrest is too frequently transformed into votes. Hence the

spotlight of public attention has long been trained upon the exchanges ...Farmers are becoming more and more closely allied with the grain industry. They have tried many theoretical marketing methods. Most of these have turned out to be only costly experimenting. They know that the grain exchange markets their product at lower cost than exists in any other farm commodity....Immediate problems of the exchange include restoration of provilege trading and elimination of daily reports. Thes moves would be highly beneficial to the marketing system. At the session of Congress such changes will be sought....The grain trade faces 1925 with confidence."

Grain Marketing A lengthy editorial in The Commercial and Financial Chronicle for January 3 says:"....Making all allowances for changed conditions--our complex economic system and our great distance from the days of barter--selling for money is just what the American farmer does and he does it in a hurry. No sooner is the grain threshed than it is on the way to the local market. Once there, it is sold, and all his responsibility ceases. If the lean years come, if bread is scarce and dear, it is no concern of his. But has he not lost his opportunity to obtain a high price that accompanies scarcity? Note, now, that it is production rather than distribution that overcomes famine and correspondingly brings price. Yet we are told that 'economic equality' is to come through cooperative marketing. The local market is to be made negligibl through the establishment of warehousing corporations by the farmers themselves. These are to dole out grain to the domestic markets and to sell in quantity to the foreign markets. And the individual farmer is to part with the control of his own crop at the doors of a marketing association. By emptying his own granary, if he have one, he is to reach the world by association with others. Or is it that the cooperative marketing organization will make one price for the domestic consumer and another for the foreign? We are not told as to this by advocates of this method of relief; but we are told that the farmer's trouble is in selling. It would seem that world market prices would be as powerful over cooperative selling as over independent private corporate selling. And since this is true, ought not the storing of grain to begin with the producer? Why do we never hear the theorist friends of the farmer advising him to store his grain in his own granary? If there is anything in meeting the 'lean years,' why should not each farmer for himself make ready for the time when famine over all the world will bring buyers from far lands to his own door? In a word, why not prepare to abide by the natural law of production and failure instead of trying to base all (and risk all) on the artificial law of selling, or distribution? Again, there is constant iteration and reiteration of the principle of control through limitation of acreage and diversity of crops. Egypt was peculiarly adapted to 'corn'-and there is no record of trying to diminish the return of the fat years. To us this seems the chief folly of our present-day discussion of American agricultural conditions.....Imagine in the fat years some modern Joseph advising American farmers to grow less 'corn' and save none! Perhaps our new Agricultural Commission will solve this problem of 'economic equality' for the farmer, perhaps it will not. But there may be danger to the one independent unit in our industrial life in surrendering too much to cooperative associations. The farmer who can store his own grain, who can open his storehouses when the price is to some extent master of the foreign market and the domestic as well, why

should not that farmer in some measure act for himself? The cooperative marketing association must sell at the most favorable opportunity. It must make way for a new crop. It may try, but it will fail, to control the individual farmer as to kind of crop and acreage. Strange as it may seem, though this lone farmer is at the mercy of the fat and lean years throughout his own country and the world, he is at the same time master of his own destiny in so far as he is prepared to store his harvests against the urgent need of the consumer, whether at home or abroad. As it is, he is not prepared. And out of this condition has grown up a system of intermediaries who lessen his responsibility and market his stuff for him at their own gain and often his loss. The system is not essentially wrong. Let the farmer control it by overcoming the necessity to sell out of the field and he will take one important step in his self-preservation, and the total of saving for lean years will vastly increase."

Potato Markets The press of January 3 states that the Department of Commerce is endeavoring to find markets for American potatoes in eight foreign countries to furnish an outlet for surplus stock, particularly in Maine resulting from the recent British embargo. Cables have been sent to trade representatives in France, Greece, Spain, Egypt, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, directing them to investigate the market for potatoes in those countries, and if possible to locate buyers to whom delivery could be made.

Scientific Association Concludes Sessions The New York Times of January 4 says:"Final sessions of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science concluded what officers of the association declared to have been the greatest assemblage of scientists ever gathered in the United States. Discussion of improved knowledge of weather conditions and better forecasting for aerial navigation featured the final papers presented....Tributes were paid by his associates to the scientific work of the late C.Leroy Meisinger of the Weather Bureau, killed during a balloon flight last summer. His work was declared by Charles F. Marvin, Chief of the Bureau, to have been of the greatest value in forecasting for aviators. Luring of the cotton boll weevil by sweet perfumes to an untimely end was described by N.E.McIndoo of the Department of Agriculture. Government chemists, he said, have extracted flavoring substances from unripe cotton bolls to use them as lure to poisoned baits. The work is still incomplete, but promising, he stated.. The scientists, during their week session, indorsed the plan for a new calendar of thirteen months of four weeks each; the establishment in Washington of a national botanical garden and arboretum, and of a national park along Glacier Bay,Alaska. The proposed extensive study of the oceans by the navy also was approved. Award of the $1,000 association prize to the author of the most significant paper read at the meeting will not be announced for several days. The next meeting of the association will be held in Kansas City in December."

Tobacco Industry The tobacco industry appears to be in a waiting condition. Not much trading is reported in leaf and manufacturers have reduced activities for the inventory period. It is expected, however, that production will be greatly increased in the next week or two, as incoming orders call for large quantities of cigars, cigarettes and other products. (Press, Jan. 6.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Jan.5: New York Round White potatoes 10 to 15¢ higher at $1.35 to $1.55 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern markets; 10¢ higher at $1 to $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. New Jersey yellow sweet potatoes $3 to $3.25 per bushel hamper in New York. New York Danish type cabbage advanced $10 to $18 in eastern markets to $30 to $35 bulk per ton; $4 to $5 higher at $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. New York and mid-western yellow onions slightly stronger at $3 to $3.50 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; best stock $2.75 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester. Virginia and West Virginia York Imperial apples ranged $4.50 to $5.75 in the east. Michigan Baldwins $6 to $6.50 in Chicago.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11 for the top; bulk of sales $10.10 to $10.90. Medium and good beef steers $7.75 to $13.50; feeder steers steady and light and medium weight veal calves $8.25 to $12; fat lambs $15 to $17.85; feeding lambs $14.25 to $16.75; yearlings $12.50 to $16; fat ewes $6.25 to $10.

Closing prices of 92 score butter: New York 44¢; Chicago 41 1/2¢; Philadelphia 44¢; Boston 44 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted January 5: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.70 to $2.06. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.84; St. Louis $1.90 to $1.97; Kansas City $1.83 to $1.89. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.73 1/2; St. Louis $1.73 to $1.73 1/2; Kansas City $1.67 to $1.83. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.15 to $1.16. No.2 yellow corn Kansas City $1.18 to $1.19. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.20 1/2 to $1.21 3/4; Minneapolis $1.18 to $1.19; St. Louis $1.21 1/2 to $1.23 1/2. No.3 white corn St. Louis $1.20. No.3 white oats Chicago 55 1/2 to 56 3/4¢; Minneapolis 52 1/2 to 52 3/4¢; St. Louis 59 to 59 3/4¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 45 points, closing at 23.44¢ per lb. New York January future contracts down 44 points, closing at 23.36¢.(Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials	Average closing price	Jan. 5,	Jan. 3,	Jan. 5, 1924
and	20 Industrials	119.46	122.20	96.26
Railroads	20 R.R. stocks	99.14	99.33	81.33

(Wall St. Jour., Jan.6.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVI, no. 5 Section 1 January 7, 1925

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION The President's Agricultural Commission continued its concentration January 6 on the endeavor to devise legislative assistance for the livestock industry. Chairman Carey has announced that any proposals for financing the cattleman would be drawn to meet the approval of the bankers, but no member of the commission would say last night what course was being considered. John M. Sparks, president of the Fort Worth Cattle Loan Company, appeared before the commission for a short time yesterday, and other cattle loan bankers and cattlemen of long experience are expected to be invited to appear. (Press, Jan.7.)

A resolution to make available $50,000 to defray the expenses of the President's agricultural commission was reported January 6 by the House agricultural committee, according to the press to-day.

POSTAL SALARY BILL President Coolidge's veto of the postal salary increase pay bill was sustained in the Senate yesterday by a vote of 55 to 29. (Press, Jan. 7.)

PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS CONTROL BILL Transfer of the Packers and Stockyards Administration from the Department of Agriculture to the Federal Trade Commission is provided for in a bill introduced in the Senate January 5 by Senator Frazier. (Press, Jan.6.)

MUSCLE SHOALS BILL The Senate yesterday rejected the Bruce amendment to the Underwood Muscle Shoals leasing bill, under which all requirements for production of fertilizer would have been eliminated. (Press,Jan.7.)

CABINET AND CONGRESS Representative Jacobstein January 6 introduced a bill under which Cabinet officers would occupy seats on the floor of the Senate and House and participate in debate on matters affecting their departments, but would have no vote. (Press, Jan.7.)

ALASKA GAME LEGISLATION The House January 5 passed a bill authorizing the creation of an Alaskan Game Commission to protect game animals, land fur bearing animals and birds in that territory. (Press, Jan. 6.)

FEDERAL AID AND COTTON INDUSTRY Inroads by foreign competition in the American cotton market led Edward E. Bartlett, jr., president of the New York Cotton Exchange, to issue a statement yesterday urging that Congress take immediate action to aid southern cotton planters and to save the American cotton industry. (Press, Jan. 7.)

Section 2

Agriculture in Britain

Country Life (London) for December 27 says:"....So far from its having been a good agricultural year, it has led a great many statisticians not naturally inclined to be gloomy to point out that it may mark the end of the time when we may look out for plentiful foodstuffs. According to a well known principle, population always tends to increase with the food supply. Moreover, it has been made plain that the war had the unexpected effect of raising the standard of living. That may, however, be in part due to the superior manner in which armies were fed on the field. It is accompanied by great changes in the food of the nations of the Far East, Japan and China especially, who, to a considerable extent, have turned from the rice which they used to consume as their staple food to wheat and other cereals. If that is so, the farmer of the immediate future is not likely to complain again of low prices. The exact contrary may happen.The nations of the East increase and multiply, and their power of consumption increases in proportion."

Bread in Canada

The Grain Growers' Guide, (Winnipeg) for December 31 says: "The Scottish Co-operator complains that the British housewife is paying 10d (20 cents) for a four-pound loaf, while the highest price during the war was 18 cents. At that the British consumer has the edge on the Canadian consumer. Twenty cents for four pounds is five cents a pound, and the wheat from which the bread is made has been transported thousands of miles. Out here on the prairies we grow the wheat, and flour is made practically on the harvest field. According to the figures compiled by the Labor Gazette, a Dominion government publication, the average price per pound for bread in Manitoba is 5.9 cents, in Saskatchewan 7.4 cents, and in Alberta 8 cents, omitting Drumsheller where the price is 10 cents and is the highest in the Dominion."

Business Situation

George M. Reynolds, chairman of the board, Commercial and National Bank, Chicago, says: "Gauging the trend of business during the coming year ought to be much easier than it has been at any corresponding season in the last decade. For several years up until now there have been surprises on every hand; nothing seemed quite certain, or enough so to form the basis of clear reasoning. The upsets have come so rapidly that it has been difficult to get an analysis that was satisfactory.If the domestic situation appeared to be showing promise of a fairly permanent condition, trouble would occur in Europe where, until well into 1924, nearly everything seemed to grow worse instead of better.Here in our own country, if some particular industry prospered, some other languished. This is the first time in ten years that the offsets to good news have not been both confusing and disheartening....In our domestic affairs we have a record that augurs well for the future. Previous low prices of farm products have meant enforced economy in all agricultural sections. Farmers have denied themselves many things sorely needed. Since the middle of 1924 prices for products of the soil have been mounting and farmers are again in position to buy implements and goods freely. This alone ought to add enormously to the demand for various articles of manufacture.....We come to the beginning of the year 1925 with a better European outlook, a sane and very competent administration at Washington, very large domestic buying power and a supply of credit that is quite ample for all needs. What more can we ask? "

George G. Lonsdale, president of the St. Louis National Bank of Commerce, says:"....Not the least radiant in the present bright outlook is the position of the farmer--the real 'come-back' of the deflation period. Sans blocs, political and other artificial stimulus, he stands to-day four-square, a rehabilitated and vital factor in our favorable outlook--a victory largely his own handiwork. Like so many seekers after surcease and panacea, he found the 'acre of diamonds' on his own 'back forty.' He's injecting business into farming, which, after all, is half production and half distribution; he's giving thought to a better marketing system; he sees some hope in applying the Federal Reserve idea of financing to the farm. Thanks to a quickened foreign demand and a kind Providence, his situation is less acute, his buying power is nearly a billion dollars greater than last year and his future in the Nation's commercial course far more certain than it has been in the last several years. The livestock industry still has some kinks to straighten out; corn, only a 20 per cent cash crop, will soon find its full expression in the form of the marketed hog, adding immeasurably to the farmer's wealth, because the yield, in value at least, was good. This reserve strength--hidden purchasing power--is found in another unexpected quarter this year. Texas and Oklahoma, in this territory, have been benefited by a bountiful cotton crop. While the very prospect of it has taken much of the listlessness out of the local market, jobbers are agreed that the one-crop country people have learned a lesson by the 'lean years' and are conserving their resources in order to be constant rather than 'deluge'customers, a course which demonstrates how well even the rank and file is avoiding impetuous moves toward inflation."

Cotton in 1925 The Journal of Commerce for January 5 says: "The president of the New York Cotton Exchange is on strong ground in asserting that the relatively good crop of cotton grown in this country this year is not sufficient to render a good output next season unnecessary. It ought likewise to be added that the relative freedom from boll weevil this year ought not to suggest to the farmer that it is not as necessary as ever for him to take every feasible step to protect his crop next season The warm, open weather of the past fall gave the weevils good opportunity to go into the winter in much larger numbers than otherwise would have been the case. Barring freezing weather during the winter sufficient again to kill off hibernating weevils the planter may well find himself in a distinctly uncomfortable situation next summer. This naturally brings up for careful thought once more the question whether we are doing all that could be done to get this pest under control as a regular and permanent thing. Favorable weather conditions which once in a while make possible a season relatively weevil-free are to be welcomed as a windfall, but it is by no means safe to suppose that such a blessing can be counted upon regularly.There is no use in expecting to eradicate the weevil entirely in a short time, as one or two highly enthusiastic but uninformed individuals were sure they could do a year or two ago, but no reason exists for supposing that the task of bringing it under reasonable artificial control is an impossible one, if indeed it is attacked with determination and energy."

Exports The Journal of Commerce for January 6 says: "Advance summaries from the Department of Commerce presenting some analysis of our export trade during the year that has just passed show nothing very new or startling, but they do once again call attention to some facts that

might otherwise be overlooked. In the first place, the major portion of the substantial increase in outward shipments is accounted for by increased sales of cotton and wheat. So far as wheat is concerned, the value figures are still further enhanced by the higher prices which have for the past half year been ruling the world over. To some fairly moderate extent we have been selling more of certain manufactured articles, like machinery and automobiles, in larger quantities, to foreign peoples. Surely not a particularly satisfactory competitive showing for a country situated as this one is. But that is not the full story. How are we being paid for these goods? Imports fail by a wide margin to afford the answer. Apart from lending operations invisible items likewise fall far short of balancing the account. In short, it is impossible to avoid arriving at the conclusion that the large funds we have been advancing to foreigners are in no small measure being employed to pay us for such goods as we have been selling in larger than usual quantities to Europe. This is well enough if such exports enable foreign peoples to increase their productivity sufficiently to meet amortization and interest charges on borrowed funds and if we can absorb sufficient goods and securities to enable them to pay. But otherwise what is the ultimate outcome to be? "

Grain Exports Grain exports from the United States last week amounted to 2,466,000 bushels, compared with 2,357,000 the previous week. The Commerce Department in making public the figures to-day gave the following comparisons between grain exported last week and that of the preceding week: Wheat, 1,917,000 bushels, against 1,814,000; barley, 340,000, against 292,000; corn, 93,000, against 145,000; oats, 62,000, against 52,000; rye, 54,000, against 54,000. Canadian grain shipped from the United States last week amounted to 2,618,000, against 2,092,000 bushels the previous week. Wheat flour exported from the United States last week was 273,000 barrels, compared with 493,000 the previous week. (Press, Jan. 5.)

Land Ownership and Tenancy The Breeders Gazette for January 1 says: "No consideration of the farm problem, in the Western and Middle Western States at least, that ignores the question of land values, and the relations of landlords to tenants, is going to get very far. We hand that statement to the President's Agricultural Commission, and advise a study of British tenures and farm operation, with a view to ascertaining to what extent, if any, legislation can bring about better cooperation in this country between capital on the one hand and skilled agricultural operators on the other. That is one form of cooperation we are for to the limit. In the first place, the money that has been made in the past in the rural West has been made to a vastly greater extent through land-buying and advances in land values than through actual farming. One has only had to buy land on a margin and hold on to it long enough to double his money. Hence land speculation, rather than a determined intent to farm intensively and well, has been the dominant feature attending the settlement and development of the great central valleys and the arid and semi-arid West up to date. We have land dealers, swappers and traders galore. Our percentage of high-grade practical farmers suffers by comparison with, say, English and Scotch farm operators....We wonder if the time is not already over-due here in the United States for the introduction of a system in which the capital investment in lands and primary

improvements shall be borne by one party, and the actual handling of the lands shall be turned over to others who know farming from the ground up, utilizing their own capital in the stocking and permanent development of the property under long leases, in which the tenant's expenditures for fencing, drainage, fertilizing and the like shall find full protection. Is it not true that the average farmer needs more capital for operating purposes? Is it not true that thousands of farmers have all their money in the fee or in an equity, and little or nothing left to do business with? Certainly that is true in far too many cases, and certain it is that this situation grows out of the successful experience of pioneer farmers and their immediate descendants in land speculation. But something has happened now effectually to discredit this eternal betting on rising land values. The country is strewn with wreckage to-day testifying to the folly of wholesale land gambling in a country now thoroughly explored, and, in some cases, over-exploited for farming purposes. In Britain tenant-farmers are the salt of the earth--the best and most firmly-intrenched element in every agricultural community. Lord This or Sir That may hold the title, if he likes, and pay the taxes; the tenants, for life or extended periods, are the real possessors of the soil, live in complete security as to all their personal property investments, and rear their children from generation to generation. We know case after case where such tenants have accumulated comfortable fortunes through legitimate farming and stock breeding conducted upon some one else's land. Why this false pride in landed proprietorship in this country? What is the sense in a system that compels the owner to put every cent he has or can borrow into a title deed, and have nothing left to farm with? Why not encourage a closer union between capital and high-grade farmers, to the end that soil-building systems may be substituted for mining operations, and animal husbandry find at last its proper place?...In all this we refer not at all to those isolated cases where men have capital enough to both own and operate their own farms. That is probably the ideal situation; but the farm mortgage statistics unfortunately reveal a condition that is at this time a matter of real concern. Any laws that shall encourage a division of the investment, and leave the farmer himself freer to proceed securely with his own plans for progress will make for a better agriculture and a higher type of farming and farm living. We repeat: read and study the story of the modern British system, and what it has given to the world."

Meat Trade

Institute of American Meat Packers says: "Production of meat in this country during the year just closed probably equalled, if it did not exceed, the record-breaking production of 1923. Notwithstanding the heavy marketings of livestock which made this large production possible, prices being paid to farmers for most of their animals are higher on the average than a year ago and substantially higher than in 1913, according to President Mayer. Meat prices generally, as might be expected in view of the increased prices being paid for livestock, also are somewhat higher than before the war. During much of the year, however, wholesale pork prices were at or below pre-war levels. Fresh pork and some grades of beef, especially those from grass-fed cattle, which have been in liberal supply, are being wholesaled at relatively low figures. Export trade during the year was, for the most part, unsatisfactory with respect to both quantity and value. Exports for the first ten months of this year, the latest period of which official records are available, show a decline in quantity of approximately 167,000,000 pounds and in value of approximately $23,000,000, as compared with the

same period a year ago. Inasmuch as exports of meat products and derivatives during the first ten months of 1923 approximated two billion pounds, worth about a quarter of a billion dollars, the decline in the quantity and value of meat products exported this year amount to about 9 per cent."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan.6: Sacked Round White potatoes from New York sold at $1.25 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $1 to $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida Wakefield cabbage sold at $2 to $2.25 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in eastern cities. New York Danish type $30 to $35 bulk per ton in leading markets; $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. Golden Self-blanching celery from New York brought $2.50 to $3.50 per 2/3 crate in city markets; best $3 f.o.b. Rochester. Michigan Baldwin apples $6 to $6.50 in Chicago. Northwestern Extra Fancy Winesaps $3.25 to $3.50 per box in the Middle West.

Chicago hog prices closed at $10.95 for the top, bulk of sales $9.75 to $10.75; medium and good beef steers $7.75 to $13.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.35 to $11; feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.25 to $12; fat lambs $15.50 to $18.25 and feeding lambs $14.25 to $16.75.

Grain prices quoted January 6: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.73 to $2.10. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.84 1/2; St. Louis $1.97 to $1.98; Kansas City $1.88 to $1.93. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.75; St. Louis $1.74 1/2 to $1.75; Kansas City $1.68 to $1.85. No.2 mixed corn St. Louis $1.19 1/2. No.3 mixed corn Kansas City $1.18 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.20 to $1.21; St. Louis $1.20 1/2 to $1.21 1/2. Minneapolis $1.19 to $1.20 1/2. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.19 1/2; No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.17 to $1.18 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 56 to 56 3/4¢; St. Louis 59 to 59 1/2¢; Minneapolis 53 3/4¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 35 points, closing at 23.79¢ per lb. New York January future contracts up 36 points, closing at 23.72¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 6,	Jan. 5,	Jan. 5, 1924
20 Industrials	121.13	119.46	96.26
20 R.R. stocks	100.27	99.14	81.33

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 7.)

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Vol.XVI, no. 6 Section 1 January 8, 1925

AGRICULTURAL BILL — The agricultural bill was discussed in the Senate yesterday for eighty-five minutes before it was approved. As passed by the House it carried $124,663,473 and the Senate added $125,005. (Press,Jan. 8.)

EMERGENCY DEFICIENCY BILL — The Senate appropriations committee yesterday reported the emergency deficiency bill carrying $159,449,838, which is an increase of $2,336,138 over the amount allowed by the House bill. (Press,Jan.8)

RIVERS AND HARBORS BILL — The House rivers and harbors committee yesterday reduced the proposed $52,000,000 rivers and harbors bill by $13,214,000 and under a program agreed to by House leaders it will come up for action next week. (Press, Jan. 8.)

GROCERS OPPOSE PACKERS — The National Wholesale Grocers' Association January 6 filed in the District of Columbia Supreme Court opposition to the vacating of the consent decree by which the "Big Five" packers agreed to divorce the meat industry from all unallied activities. The association contends that the packers consented to the decree with their eyes open and are bound by its terms. (Press, Jan. 7.)

FRANCE MAY LOWER U.S. TARIFF — A Paris dispatch to the press of January 7 states that Minister of Commerce Ranaldy said January 6 that he would recommend to the Cabinet the granting to American exporters of prefential treatment under the Tariff Revision bill introduced in Parliament last month.

HOOVER ON AGRICULTURE — Asserting that he favored a relaxation of the restraint-of-trade acts affecting agriculture, Secretary Hoover in an address before the National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations at Washington, January 7, sketched his idea of a theoretical agricultural policy. Mr. Hoover stressed three points--having the United States self-supporting as to its food supply, the upbuilding of organizations among farmers themselves, such as the cooperative movement, and the elimination of waste, which, he said, affected the farmer as well as every other factor of American life. "All of the alarm that has been expressed as to the combination of farmers to militate against the consumer," Mr. Hoover asserted, "is, to my mind, entirely unnecessary and not worthy of consideration." There needs to be a larger opportunity for agricultural cooperation under the restraint-of-trade acts, he asserted. He cited the work of his department in standardizing cement, bolts and nuts, lumber and warehouses, as an aid to cheapening production and distribution. Assistance at this point is needed by Government agencies, he declared. Terminal facilities have not kept pace with demands, Mr. Hoover said, urging some type of organization at these points to assist producer and consumer. (Press, Jan.8.)

Section 2

Antarctic Game Sanctuary — A Paris dispatch to the press of January 6 states that the French Minister of the Colonies, by a decree dated Dec. 30, has created an immense game sanctuary in France's Antarctic possessions. The principal animals protected are polar bears, walrus, sea lions and penquins.

Canada's Flour Mills — The expansion of the flour milling industry of Canada during 1924 has been one of the outstanding industrial features of the Dominion, states a bulletin of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which points out that many new companies have entered the field, especially in Western Canada, due to the present important position occupied by Vancouver as a shipping point. While other countries with important milling industries have found it necessary to import hard wheat from Canada to mix with their own product for flour manufacturing purposes, Canada obtains all the necessary supply from her own fields at a minimum price. The Dominion now ships flour to fifty countries, and new export customers are obtained constantly. The domestic consumption of wheat is only about a quarter of the capacity of the mills, leaving wide room for the expansion of the export trade. (Press,Jan.7.)

Canadian Cotton and Woolen Industries — A Montreal dispatch to the press of January 7 says: "During the past year the cotton industry in Canada has been operating much below capacity and, although some improvement was noted recently, there are still big obstacles to overcome. In fact, the textile industry is working under a considerable handicap for various reasons. Probably the main difficulty is the ease with which textile goods are being obtained from abroad as a result of depreciated European exchange, as well as the preference granted to certain goods from the United Kingdom. The high price of raw cotton interfered with buying for some time, a fact which gave impetus to the increasing use of artificial silk as a substitute for cotton fabrics. This artificial silk is presenting a problem of no small magnitude to the textile industries. The woolen trades have also been working much below capacity, partly as a result of the same set of conditions. The British preference is an important factor as is also the depreciated currencies and the low production costs of certain of the European countries. Another factor which has to be taken into account is the migration to the United States of the skilled mill workers from the Canadian mills in quest of higher wages. The low prices received by sheep raisers for raw wool during the period subsequent to the introduction of a policy of control by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain three years ago caused a large decline in the production of wool in Canada. During the period since 1921 the quantity of raw wool imported into Canada has increased from less than 10,000,000 pounds to approximately double that amount, while home production has fallen from 24,000,000 pounds to probably 13,000,000 pounds in 1924."

Canners' Cooperative Fails — A Rochester, N.Y., dispatch to the press of January 6 says: "Collapse of one of the most ambitious cooperative marketing programs undertaken in the East was disclosed January 6 when it was learned that the New York Canning Crop Growers' Cooperative Association, with headquarters at Rochester, soon will pass out of existence. Liquidation of assets now is under way, and it is expected the offices here will be abandoned within the month. With a membership of 1,400 and more than ten years of successful operation to its credit, the organization was

forced to discontinue its activities because an agreement could not be reached whereby four local growers' associations would have been merged into one State-wide body. The other three organizations which have been overlapping and duplicating the work of the New York Canning Crop Growers' Cooperative Association are the Brockport, South Shore and Fancher Growers' Associations. These have federated into a State organization of their own and will continue to function as a single unit."

Cooperative Marketing

The Journal of Commerce for January 7 says: "There is no magic in cooperative marketing, is the message conveyed by President Coolidge to the representatives of marketing associations assembled in Washington. Somehow, by dint of repetition emanating from administrative spokesmen who before the election lauded the priceless benefits conferred by cooperation, most of us have come to believe that there is some subtle magic here at work. We have almost been led to think that cooperation can raise up buyers when there is a limited demand for the product. We have begun to believe that cooperation can somehow enable the seller to get as high prices for surplus supplies as for deficient ones. We have started to question the inexorability of economic laws and to debate whether after all farmers' cooperatives may not be able to set these unfortunate laws at naught. It is hard to say, then, whether it is a relief or an affliction to be told at this time and by the President, too, that cooperation has to begin at the bottom and that to be successful it requires a spirit of mutual helpfulness and beyond that a large amount of hard work by the farmers themselves. This is to shatter almost ruthlessly the pleasant fictions so painfully built up by some of our politicians who court the favor of the rural electorate."

Hog Supplies

In an editorial on pig statistics issued by the Department of Agriculture, Sioux City Live Stock Record for January 3 says:"...Thus with a 17 per cent smaller spring pig crop to start with, marketing for the last quarter of 1924 will not fall far below marketing during the same period of 1923. It is not difficult to figure what the effect will be on marketing during the early part of 1925--if the Government estimates are anywhere near right. And, it should be added, market receipts in the past have pretty well borne out the results of these department surveys made in cooperation with the Post Office Department through rural mail carriers. In addition to numbers there is the matter of weights. Last week's hogs at Chicago averaged nine pounds less than during the same week a year ago, and for every other week of the last three months, except the first, the weights have been lighter this year than last. It is for these reasons, coupled with the expectation of good business in general, that predictions of a higher level of price in the hog market have been so freely made."

Irrigation Body Named

President Coolidge January 6 designated three special commissioners to arrange with a Mexican commission for an "equitable use of the waters of the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman, Tex , for irrigation and other purposes." The American representatives are Dr. Elwood Mead, chief of the Reclamation Service; W. E. Anderson, of La Feria, Tex., and Major General Lansing H. Beach, retired, former chief of army engineers. The Mexican commission has not been named. (Press, Jan. 7.)

Meat Marketing

Sioux City Live Stock Record for January 3 says: "Retailing meats is the next logical undertaking for the large American packing houses,

according to the officials of the Department of Agriculture, who administer the legislation regarding stockyards and packers. This is in the direction of efficiency, they think, and they point to successful retailing in England by a British packing concern that operates 2,600 retail stores. It seems, however, there are two difficulties in the way of attainment of the course the officials consider logical and economic. Four of the five large packing companies are parties to a consent decree under the Sherman act and this decree perpetually enjoins them from engaging in the retailing of meats. The other reason is that the largest packers are opposed to any suggestion that it would be in the public interest for them to own and operate retail markets. Under these circumstances the official view of logic and economics would appear to be very purely academic."

Plant Pathology Research at Columbia — The New York Times of January 6 states that the trustees of Columbia University announced January 5 that Dr. Samuel F. Trelease had been appointed Professor of Botany at Columbia and placed in charge of extensive researches which are to be carried out in connection with the New York Botanical Garden into causes of plant diseases, the effect of air pollution in American cities on plants, the effect of the automobile on vegetation and many similar subjects. The Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden are seeking an increase of endowment of $7,000,000 in order to develop plans for increasing the usefulness of the garden.

South American Trade — The New York Times of January 7 says: "All of the South American countries, and Argentina in particular, are said to be looking for increased foreign trade during 1925, according to bankers who have kept themselves posted on the affairs of Latin American countries. During 1924 the Argentine Republic enjoyed greater prosperity than it has for several years, a reflection of which was seen in the rise of its foreign exchange unit, the peso. Improved conditions in Europe resulted in a broader market for Argentine products and, like the American farmer, the Argentine wheat grower was favored by the elements, an unusually large crop in that country synchronizing with the failure of the wheat crop in Europe. According to the latest figures available the total of cereal shipments from the Argentine for the first ten months of 1924 was 10,253,354 metric tons against 7,571,073 in 1923 and 6,497,079 in 1922 for the corresponding periods. The price of wheat in June last was substantially higher than it was in the same month of 1923, and in the latter part of 1924 this price advanced rapidly along with gains in prices of other commodities. The livestock industry also reported in 1924 a pronounced betterment. The amount of meat exported during the first seven months of 1924 was above the total for the same period of 1923, while the number of cattle slaughtered during the same period was 700,000 more than in the corresponding part of 1923. Prices were about 20 to 25 per cent higher. Likewise, the value of hides exported in the first half of 1924 was greater than in the corresponding part of 1923 by $10,000,000.... Throughout Central America conditions are favorable,' according to Norman C. Stenning, president of the Anglo-South American Trust Company, who has made a study of economic conditions in all the Latin American countries. 'While most of these countries have, in the past, been dependent on their coffee crop to balance their trade movement with the rest of the world, more attention will be now focused on other products.'"

Southern Ports

The Florida Times-Union for January 2 says: "The Birmingham Age-Herald, discussing the outlook for southern ports, says that the policy of sending goods from the Middle West and Northwest to Central America and Pacific ports is a matter of using two legs of a triangle when they could go better and quicker by the third leg. Brought around into plain words, the shipment from North Dakota could better go directly South, leaving Galveston or Jacksonville or New Orleans for Central America than via New York or Philadelphia. The Age-Herald quotes from Secretary Hoover's recent article on the South's development, saying: 'Students of commercial geography have often pointed out that, as the world becomes more evenly settled and developed, the currents of commerce will tend to be less between East and West and more between North and South, because the difference in climate means a permanent difference in the products, which calls for interchange. If this view is correct, the importance of the southern ports as gateways of American commerce is likely to increase still further.' It is shown that the growth of southern ports has been rapid since 1921, a comparison of tonnage indicating an increase in the last decade of 336 per cent increase for exports.Ten years ago the southern ports handled 5.6 per cent of the country's tonnage; now the total is more than 10 per cent. The increase in the ten years in imports through southern ports is 642 per cent! New Orleans is now the second and Galveston third in point of tonnage handled of the ports of the United States. Cotton constitutes one-fifth of the total exports of the country and 90 per cent of this leaves through southern ports.... Jacksonville is making strides in the right direction, and will some day take higher place in the list of southern ports. Facilities are increasing and the steady movement of freights from interior points this way, for shipment to South And Central America and the Pacific is noticeable. It is a logical and reasonable movement, and most satisfactory."

Waste

In an article on "The Relativity of Waste," in The Nation's Business for January, Alfred P. Dennis says: "....The growth of long staple cotton, an annual cash crop, has doubled in a generation the value of Egyptian farm lands and enabled two human beings to live in the Nile valley where only one man was able to exist before. Egypt is long of workers and short of land. Agriculture therefore is based upon what can be gotten out of an acre. In the United States the converse of the proposition holds. We are long of land and short of labor. Our agriculture therefore is based upon the man rather than the acre. Our inventive genius comes to our rescue substituting mechanical for muscular power. An American harvesting machine will do the work of twenty scythemen and do it better. In the rich agricultural province of Amilia, Italy, farm laborers have combined to drive out farm machinery. It is a question of relativity. We possess a surplus of land. Italy possesses a surplus of labor. While one therefore establishes equilibrium by the use of machinery, the other establishes equilibrium by its rejection. Changes are rung upon waste land that might be devoted to agricultural purposes--abandoned farms in New England, swamps which might be drained for hay fields, deserts which might be watered into fruitfulness. But the plight of our national agriculture in the past four years has been due not to the lack of land but to its abundance. Too many men in the farming business, an excessive acreage under crops, over-production, flooded markets, declining land values, flight from the soil under the

pressure of hard times. As Sainte-Beuve remarks: 'We should retire from affairs a little before affairs retire from us.'...Wasteful distribution: Approximately 50 cents of the dollar the consumer pays for bread is absorbed in the cost of distribution. In the case of a multitude of manufactured articles it costs as much to sell as it does to produce. It costs on an average of 63 cents of the consumer's dollar to distribute 37 cents worth of corn flakes. Household waste: Of the fat available for human consumption it is believed that 25 per cent is lost through wastage. Of the carbohydrates about 20 per cent is lost by way of the garbage pail. As a commentary on the wastage of food--under the Hoover Nation-wide food conservation campaign of 1917, twelve important American cities reported a reduction of about 10 per cent in the gross tonnage of food garbage....Raw materials: Under present methods of production probably not more than a quarter of the oil in the ground is brought to the surface. In the coal industry something like a quarter of the coal is left underground. Out of a score of possible illustrations, our naval stores industry is an example of ruthless waste....."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 7: Northern stock potatoes barely steady in city markets and slightly weaker at shipping points. New York sacked Round Whites closed at $1.25 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $1 to $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage advanced generally $10 to $15 bringing $28 to $35 bulk per ton in city wholesale markets; $2 to $3 higher at $19 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. New York onions mostly $3 to $3.25 per 100 pounds sack in eastern cities; $2.75 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester. Best New York Baldwin apples $6 to $6.50 per barrel in a few markets. Virginia and West Virginia York Imperials $5 to $5.50 in the East.

Chicago hog prices closed at $10.75 for the top, top of $9.60 to $10.60 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.75 to $13.50; butcher cows and heifers steady at $3.25 to $11; feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.50 to $12.50; fat lambs $16 to $18.75; feeding lambs $14.50 to $17; yearlings $13.25 to $16.75 and fat ewes $6.75 to $10.50.

Grain prices quoted January 7: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.77 to $2.12. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.97 to $1.99; Kansas City $1.90 to $1.95. No.3 red winter Chicago $1.84. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.78 1/2. Kansas City $1.70 to $1.80. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.17 to $1.18. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.30; Kansas City $1.20. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.23 to $1.24; Minneapolis $1.20 3/4 to $1.21 3/4; St. Louis $1.22 to $1.23 1/2. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.21. No.3 white oats Chicago 58 to 59 1/4¢; Minneapolis 54 5/8 to 54 7/8¢; St. Louis 59 3/4 to 60 1/2¢; Kansas City 59¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 42¢; Chicago 39 1/2¢; Philadelphia 43¢; Boston 42¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 25 points, closing at 23.54¢ per lb. New York January future contracts down 27 points, closing at 23.45¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 7,	Jan. 6,	Jan. 7, 1924
20 Industrials	121.18	121.13	96.54
20 R.R. stocks	100.35	100.27	81.78

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 8.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVI, no.7 Section 1 January 9, 1925

MUSCLE SHOALS BILL — The Senate yesterday, by a vote of 48 to 37, adopted the Underwood substitute providing for private operation of the Muscle Shoals plant. This vote killed the Norris proposal for Government ownership and operation, but the Underwood proposal is still subject to perfection through amendment. The Senate, as in committee of the whole, has reported the measure to the Senate. The Underwood measure provides that President Coolidge would have until September 1 to lease the property and, in the event that a favorable lease should not obtain, to work out a scheme of Federal operation. In the bill as drafted by Senator Underwood, the Secretary of War was charged with the duty of leasing the property. Senator Underwood consented to an amendment which gave the authority to the President. (Press, Jan. 9.)

GOVERNMENT BOARDS SURVEY ASKED — Senator McKellar January 8 introduced a joint resolution to create a joint committee to investigate and report to Congress on the value of certain commissions, bureaus, councils, boards, corporations, committees, and other agencies of the Government, with a view to abolishing duplication of work and attendant increase in taxation. (Press, Jan. 9.)

MEXICAN BORDER DUTY — The proposal to authorize the return of livestock driven over the Mexican line for pasturage within three years without payment of duty was rejected January 6 by the House ways and means committee. (Press, Jan. 8.)

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION PROCEEDINGS — The press to-day says: "A delegation to confer to-day with the President's agricultural commission was selected at the concluding session yesterday of the National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations, which also decided to transfer its headquarters from Chicago to Washington. The executive committee--headed by Robert W. Bingham, of Louisville, Ky.--was reelected, except that L.L.Lawler, of San Francisco, was named to take the place of J.H.Barber, resigned. The report of the secretary, Walton Peteet, embodying a plan for schools to advance cooperative marketing ideas, was indorsed. The delegation which will meet with the President's commission is headed by Mr. Bingham and includes Carl Williams, Oklahoma City; Curt Anderson, Xenia, Ill.; R. E. Cooper, Hopkinsville, Ky.; Dr.B.W.Kilgore, Raleigh, N.C.; C. O. Moser, Dallas, Tex.; Dan A. Wallace, St. Paul,Minn., and Mr. Peteet. The conference went on record as opposing any Government aid, subsidy, or special favoritism for cooperative marketing associations, asking only 'a sympathetic, understanding administration of the laws and regulations which are already in force.' Federal or State legislation to aid research work and education in agricultural economics and cooperative marketing in the State agricultural colleges, however, was indorsed, and Congress was asked to direct the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the alleged boycott of cooperatives by big tobacco interests."

Section 2

Agricultural Problem

The Charles City (Iowa) Press for January 3 says: "It is a very notable coincidence that following the recent conservative victory in England and a similar conservative victory in the United States, the administrations of these two great nations are confronted with much the same problems and are dealing with them in much the same way. For instance, in England, as in the United States, agriculture has been suffering a depression and in both countries the subject was discussed during the campaign. In the United States a revival of grain prices relieved the situation at least temporarily, and there was a slight improvement in England, but in both countries it is recognized that this can not be relied upon as a permanent settlement of the farmers' difficulties. President Coolidge sought a solution of the agricultural problem by appointing a commission composed of farmers and others engaged in business closely related to farming, delegating to them the task of securing from the farmers their view of what the Government should do to aid permanent improvement in the conditions under which agricultural producers operate. The suggestions thus procured will be submitted to Congress for consideration. In England the Minister of Agriculture has called upon the National Farmers' Union, the representative organization of farmers, to set forth their ideas as to the nature and extent of aid they think the British Government should render. There is no promise in England, or here, that the plan thus arrived at will be adopted, but in each instance, the Government is calling upon the farmers to make the first suggestion. After the farmers have made their views known, the recommendations will go before Congress in this country and before Parliament in England, where the representatives of all the people will pass upon the merits of any plan proposed."

Dairy Industry

Commerce Monthly (New York) for January contains an extensive article on the dairy industry. It says in part: "The diversification urged upon wheat farmers of the American Northwest usually has involved some resort to dairying. From the point of view of farm management this advice is sound, but it may be followed too far. The practical test of any farming system must be in the financial return. Throughout the period of agricultural depression since 1920 dairying has paid better than many other farm enterprises and a definite tendency toward expansion has developed, not only in this country but in many other parts of the world. New undertakings in this field, therefore, need to be considered in the light of a thorough understanding of the dairy industry and of the possibility of lower returns for dairy products than in the last few years, both absolutely and in relation to other farm products."

Federal Aid

The Miami Herald for January 6 says: "The theory of Federal aid is that taxes shall be collected from all the States, and that the States which are not able to do things themselves shall receive assistance from the general fund. It is a fine altruistic theory, but a good many of the States are beginning to wonder just why they should be expected to pay for work in other States which is of no general benefit to the Nation, and which the States themselves ought to do for themselves. Of course the States which pay one per cent of the taxes and receive ten per cent of the benefits from the total amount of taxes are not complaining, and perhaps the rest should not. The fact is that the theory is all wrong. It points toward the centralization of

Government in Washington. It assumes that the bureaus of the Federal Government know best what the States need and how the needs should be supplied. It is in line with the tendency which has been so marked in recent years to take out of the hands of all the people the control of their lives and put that control in commissions. Perhaps in no other way can some States secure some things that they want, and some things that they really need. It is a generous thing for the other States to aid them, but when it comes in the way it does, it tends to destroy the genius of our Government, it tends to beggar the States, it tends to weaken the fine spirit of independence, it tends to create a mendicant attitude that is altogether undesirable. Federal aid becomes, not Federal aid, but a roundabout method of using State money to centralize power in Washington. There is too much of this going on for the good of the whole country."

Food Supplies "Despite the move from farms to cities, and the increase of population which has in times past worried economists who feared that some time there would not be enough food produced to feed the inhabitants of the earth, world food production seems to be keeping up with the increase of population. Figures compiled by The Trade Record of the National City Bank of New York show that in 1923 about 13 per cent more food was produced than in 1913. The World Almanac estimates a world population of 1,623,300,000 in 1913 and 1,748,000,000 in 1924. This is an increase of about 7 2/3 per cent, so that the increase of food supplies would seem to be nearly twice as great as that of population. And what adds to the cheerfulness of the situation is the fact that the facilities for transporting food between the producing and consuming areas are improving. It is noted that 'world railways have increased from approximately 700,000 miles in 1913 to 750,000 at the present time; the world's shipping, including sail, steam and motor vessels, has increased from approximately 40,000,000 tons in 1913 to over 60,000,000 in 1923.' The Trade Record's compilation includes wheat, rye, corn, potatoes, oats and rice, and these foodstuffs show a production of about 20,000,000,000 bushels against 17,000,000,000 in 1913. These figures do not include Russia." (Literary Digest, Jan. 10.)

Foreign Loans and Farming An editorial in The Country Gentleman for January 10 says: "Business follows foreign loans. This is a principle of trade that Great Britain and Germany used before the war in building up their great foreign trade. Loans were the basis of their prosperity. Now America is in the foreign loan field. During the past year this country lent $150,000,000 to Japan, $110,000,000 to Germany, $30,000,000 each to Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland, and $685,260,000 more in less spectacular loans--a total of more than a billion dollars. Since the war our total foreign loans, not counting any of the Government war loans, have amounted to about $4,200,000,000. As time goes on our foreign loans are sure to increase. It is one way of redistributing the gold supplies of the world now held largely in this country. It is a way to help stabilize foreign currencies and in so doing to stimulate our own foreign trade. It is perhaps the surest means of creating agricultural and industrial prosperity in this country....The prosperity of America in the future will be much more dependent upon foreign trade than it has ever been in the past--and that goes for agriculture fully as much as for manufacturing."

Mortgage Note Taxation

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for January 10 says: "The laws of Kansas provided that mortgages and notes of indebtedness should be assessed and taxed at the same rate as land and buildings. Offhand that seems all right, but in practice it did not work out. Taxing a mortgage in accordance with the general tax rate frequently meant absorbing half or more of the interest. The effect was either to drive Kansas money out of Kansas mortgages or to drive it into concealment. Mortgages began disappearing from the tax returns. And money that came in from the outside to replace the Kansas money withdrawn from the tax field was not taxable in the State. So at the fall election the voters approved an amendment empowering the legislature to make exceptions of money, mortgages, notes and 'other evidences of debt.' The intent is to give these forms of prosperty a more reasonable tax rating so that local people can afford to invest in them and declare them to the tax collector. In other words, to make these forms of property really available for taxation. Most of our knowledge of taxes is being slowly acquired through the trial and error method. It appears to be a safe conclusion, however, that no tax is really serviceable when it drives investors' funds out of the field of productive business. More tax money is likely to be obtained through a lower rate than through a penalizingly high one."

Sapiro on Tobacco Organizations

Investigation of the big tobacco trade organizations by the Federal Trade Commission was urged by Aaron Sapiro, of Chicago, in an address on legislative and governmental aspects of the cooperative marketing problem, before the National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Association on Tuesday. The cooperative movement, he asserted, now needs the administrative support of the Government rather than more laws. He expressed opposition to the Norris-Sinclair, McNary-Haugen, Curtis-Aswell and Capper-Williams farm relief bills and suggested a 'Monroe Doctrine in economics' as well as politics. The big tobacco organizations, he charged, are boycotting the cooperative associations." (Press, Jan. 8.)

Stone Opposes Sugar Merger Plan

Attorney General Stone is opposed to a merger of American sugar refining interests under the conditions suggested in a proposal for a modification of the decree of the courts in the case of the United States against the American Sugar Refining Company. This was made known by the Department of Justice January 7 through the release of a letter from him to Willett & Gray, of New York City. On Dec. 30 Willett & Gray asked the Attorney General as to his attitude toward the acquisition of the assets of the National Sugar Refining Company, of New Jersey, by the American Sugar Refining Company. Attorney General Stone's statement on the proposed merger is believed to have delayed the consolidation which had been slated for ratification by the stockholders next week. (Press, Jan. 8.)

Swedish Sugar Profits

Sweden's second largest corporation, the Swedish Sugar Mills Company, which holds a virtual monopoly on the manufacture of sugar in Sweden, has just issued its latest annual report, showing sales totalling a value of more than 100,000,000 kronor, or about $27,000,000, during the fiscal year. The total assets are about $55,208,000, and the total capital is about $36,180,000. The net profit for the year amounted to $2,481,000, and 6 per cent dividends have been declared, as compared with 5 per cent for the previous year.(Press, Jan.8.)

War Finance Corporation Since the passage of the Act of August 24, 1921, the corporation has approved 8.715 advances for agricultural and livestock purposes totaling $479,734,000--$189,508,000 to banking and financing institutions, $92,899,000 to livestock loan companies and $197,327,000 to cooperative marketing associations. Of the amounts approved, $297,934,000 had been actually advanced to November 30, 1924--$172,850,000 to banking and financing institutions, $86,559,000 to livestock loan companies and $38,525,000 to cooperative marketing associations. The total repayments received by the corporation to November 30, 1924, on account of these loans aggregated $252,386,000, which represents 84.7 percent of the amount originally advanced. Of the total $147,398,000 was repaid by banking and financing institutions, $67,584,000 by livestock loan companies and $37,304,000 by cooperative marketing associations, leaving a balance outstanding of $45,648,000, or 15.3 per cent, as follows: From banking and financing institutions, $25, 452,000; from livestock loan companies, $18,975,000; from cooperative marketing associations, $1,221,000. Loans to Banks--In all the corporation has made advances for agricultural and livestock purposes to 4,317 banking and financing institutions in thirty-seven States. Of these 674, or 15.6 per cent, were national banks and 3,643, or 84.4 per cent, were State banks. Of the State banks 213 were members of the Federal Reserve System. The loans to national banks, amounting to $33,744,000, constitute 19.5 per cent of the whole, and the loans to State banks, totaling $139,106,000, equal 80.5 per cent. (From annual report, W. F. Corp.)

Wheat Situation An editorial in The North-West Farmer (Winnipeg) for December says: "The wheat situation as at the middle of November is reviewed in this issue by T. K. Doherty, Canadian representative to the International Institute of Agriculture, an organization that gathers and publishes information regarding world crops. Mr. Doherty's view of the situation, briefly, is that wheat supplies are not likely to be sufficient to meet requirements and give the usual carry-over at the end of next July, when a new crop will be available. With Mr. Doherty's view practically all market authorities agree. In fact, in no year that we can recall have market observers and crop statisticians been so generally in agreement regarding the supply situation as they are at present. To some extent Old Country experts incline to take a more optimistic view of the situation, that is optimistic from the consumer's standpoint, than do experts on this continent, but on the whole it is admitted that supplies are dangerously short and that at the end of the present cereal year world supplies of wheat are likely to be lower and the carry-over into 1925-26 smaller than it has been for some time. This is a short-crop year and markets will be controlled by sellers more than by buyers. This condition will continue until the supply situation is altered by another full crop, or at least a better than average crop."

Wool Prospects The press of January 4 says: "With another series of auction sales of Colonial wools due to occur in a few days, there is considerable conjecture in the trade over the prices that will be made. Results of recent public offerings both in the British capital and in Australia and New Zealand seemed to indicate that the peak in prices had passed and that quotations were due for a decline. There are, however, seemingly powerful interests enlisted in the effort to uphold prices."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 8: Chicago hog prices closed at $10.75 for the top and $9.50 to $10.60 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.75 to $13.50, butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $11; feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.75 to $13; fat lambs $16 to $18.75; feeding lambs $14.50 to $17 and yearlings $13.25 to $16.75.

Northern sacked Round White potatoes $1.05 to $1.10 carlot sales in Chicago; 80 to 90¢ f.o.b. New York cabbage closed the week slightly stronger, Northern stock slightly weaker in city markets, firm at shipping point. Virginia and West Virginia York Imperial apples sold slightly weaker at $4.75 to $5.50 per barrel, top of $6 in Pittsburgh. New York Rhode Island Greenings $6.50 per barrel in New York.

Closing prices of 92 score butter: New York 42¢; Chicago 42 1/2¢; Philadelphia 43¢; Boston 42¢.

Closing grain prices January 8: No.1 dark northern wheat Minneapolis $1.75 to $2.10. No.2 red winter, Chicago $1.88 1/2 to $1.89; St. Louis $2.00; Kansas City $1.92. No.2 hard winter, Chicago $1.77 3/4 to $1.78 1/8; St. Louis $1.76 to $1.78, Kansas City $1.69 to $1.88. No.2 yellow corn, Kansas City $1.20. No.3 yellow corn, Chicago $1.23 3/4 to $1.24 1/4, Minneapolis $1.20 1/4 to $1.22 1/4, St. Louis $1.22 1/2 to $1.23 1/2. No.3 white corn, Chicago $1.21 1/2, St. Louis $1.22. No.3 white oats, Chicago 58 1/4 to 59¢; Minneapolis 54 3/4¢; St. Louis 61¢ to 61 1/2¢, Kansas City 60 1/2¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 9 designated spot markets up 8 points, closing at 23.62¢ per lb. New York January future contracts up 10 points, closing at 23.55¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 8,	Jan. 7,	Jan. 8, 1924
20 Industrials	121.61	121.18	96.77
20 R.R.stocks	100.19	100.35	81.93

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 9.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XVI, no. 8 Section 1 January 10, 1925

CHICAGO BOARD SEATS

A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that Board of Trade memberships have advanced from $3,500 to $8,600 in seven months. Annual dues for 1925 have been increased from $175 to $250. The dues this year are the highest known in the history of the Board of Trade. Up to a few years ago they were $150 a year, payable semiannually. Increased expenses, due to starting of the cotton trade, are largely responsible for the increase in dues.

ANGLO-CHILEAN NITRATE COMPANY TRANSFER

The New York Times to-day states that all the properties of the Anglo-Chilean Nitrate Company have been transferred to the Guggenheim Brothers' British organization, it was announced January 9. In preparation for the transfer the Guggenheims recently organized a company in the United States known as the Anglo-Chilean Consolidated Nitrate Corporation. It has a capital of 125,000 shares of preferred stock of $100 a share par value and 1,600,000 shares of no par value common stock. It also has an authorized issue of $3,600,000 7 per cent bonds due January 1, 1950. The new company is controlled and practically owned by the Guggenheim Brothers, although none of the Guggenheims is an officer in it. The new company, it was further stated, will continue production from the present plants of the Anglo-Chilean Nitrate & Railway Company, until it can get into operation the new plant to be built for the use of the Guggenheim process. It is stated that the new company will eventually be one of the largest producers of nitrate, as when the new plant is in operation, it will be making about 12 1/2 per cent of the total nitrate exported from Chile.

CALIFORNIA RATIFIES CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT

A Sacramento dispatch to the press of January 9 states that both the Senate and the Assembly of the California Legislature adopted January 8 the resolution ratifying the child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution, adding California to the list of States which have taken this action.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A Philadelphia dispatch to the press to-day states that Sir George Paish, British financial authority and publicist, told the Transatlantic Society in an address at Philadelphia, January 9, that unless Germany's reparation indemnity was reduced and the French left the Rhineland, another European war was inevitable. "Unless a solution just and reasonable to all is reached," declared Sir George, "France will stay in the Rhine territory until reparations are paid, and it is physically impossible for Germany to pay the original amount. This means eventually that Germany will try to drive the French out, and a new war will be on. Germany will not make the mistake she made the last time in having Russia as an enemy, but will have that nation as a friend. Germany and Russia will be able to overrun Europe and establish a military despotism." The Dawes report did not entirely solve the reparations problem, but it improved the situation, the speaker said. He added that the United States was looked upon by other countries as the one nation which has a policy of justice and that people in all parts of Europe looked to America to bring about a better spirit of international friendship.

Section 2

Agricultural Commission

Sioux City Live Stock Record for January 6 says: "Announcement is made that the President's agricultural relief commission, which was appointed some weeks ago, is now in its second session in Washington, and proposes to direct its first action to the relief of the livestock industry. If it can propose an immediate relief to the situation now existing, all well and good. But we positively must be shown miracles--we do not believe in them and neither the President nor his commission can tell us there are such things as miracles in this age. Granted that the range man is and has for some time been up against hard conditions; his condition suddenly became worse when it was demonstrated that the corn crop of 1924 was a 50 per cent crop, and that the 50 per cent bushel crop was not more than 50 per cent normal in feeding quality. This put the corn belt farmer in a condition that has not been seen by him in a generation. As early as the first weeks in November last it became evident that the corn crop would not feed out the cattle and hogs on farms in the corn belt and there started a rush to unload pastures, stalk fields and feed lots. The end is not yet in that rush. It is depleting farms of livestock at a rate never before heard of in this country. Can this commission cure a short corn crop condition? Can it cure the hoarding of corn that is lacking in feeding quality and being held for No.1 corn prices, which is being done to a certain extent? It sometimes seems to us that this political effort in behalf of the farmer is running to dangerous lengths--not to use a harsher term....."

Agriculture 1

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for January 9 says: "In the Parable of the Sower we are shown that not all seed that is scattered bears fruit, but that which falls on good ground springs up and produces results. While the teaching is spiritual, may we not with all reverence suggest that it may be applied to material things? For instance, The Wall Street Journal for years has been seeking to improve the conditions of agriculture through diversified farming. Not all the seed it has scattered has fallen on good ground, but evidence accumulates that some is producing fruit. An extract from a letter received from a subscriber is one of the bits of evidence: 'An editorial that was printed in your paper last summer has been very much in my mind the last week, although at the time I read it I thought that you would do better to stick to stock quotations and leave the farm to the farmer. I am farming two ranches equal in size but not as to the fertility of the soil. The better one this year was all cotton. The other one some cotton, but diversified. I keep separate bank accounts and set of books for each ranch, so I do not have them mixed. After paying about five dollars an acre taxes and three dollars an acre for water the diversified farm will net this year about 7 per cent on capital invested. The better farm, all cotton, will please me very much if it will keep out of the red ink. I now realize that the writer of the editorial on diversified farming was right.' When a man says 'I saw' or 'I did' this or that you have the strongest kind of testimony. The writer of this letter is giving actual experience after careful tests and bookkeeping and not a haphazard guess. What adds to the force of his statements is the fact that so many banks in the agricultural sections, having learned from their own experience, are taking up in earnest the question of diversified farming by their customers....There is no crop

that takes as much from the soil as tobacco. Yet in the tobacco raising sections of Kentucky on lands that have been farmed for more than 100 years the soil is as fertile as it ever was. The Kentucky farmers do what this Mississippi bank circular advises, maintain a system of crop rotation that builds up the soil. The farmer who does this and has a variety of products to sell is reasonably insured against the distress of the one-crop man who is automatically in trouble in any year of adverse weather or of low markets."

Agriculture 2

Herbert Hoover is the author of a comprehensive article entitled "The Long View of Farming" in The Country Gentleman for January 10. He prefaces his review as follows: "Taking the long view, the economic forces in action in America to-day are more favorable to the American farmer than to other groups in the country. No man can prophesy what the ups and downs in the price of a particular commodity may be, but it is entirely within human capability to sum up the broad economic influences which bear upon the future of American agriculture. Any such summary will carry hope to the American farmer. He has had a bad time during this past three years, but irresistible forces are putting him right and will, as I believe, in the large view continue in this direction. We can approach the problem from several directions: First, our population is increasing at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent per annum. We will gain 15,000,000 people in the next ten years. This increase in population must be fed. It must be fed either by decrease in exports of agricultural produce, by an increase in imports, or by an increase in production at home, or from all three of these factors. If we examine our surplus production of to-day--which is mostly represented by our exports--we will find that over the last three years, if we calculate them on the basis of calories as required for consumption in the United States, we could support about 20,000,000 more people from this surplus, assuming it could be readjusted into the proper ratio of fats, carbohydrates and protein. But on the other hand, upon a similar basis of calculation, we are to-day importing a considerable quantity of foodstuffs, chiefly sugar, which estimated in the same fashion would perhaps supply 15,000,000 people. It will be seen, therefore, that just from the point of view of food values we are to-day producing a surplus for roughly 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 people, whereas we will have 15,000,000 more mouths to feed within a single decade. Such calculations must not be taken literally or as accurate, but they indicate a tendency, and it is tendencies that this discussion is devoted to."

Cotton Goods Tariff

An increased tariff on fine cotton goods would result in domestic manufacturers raising their prices and letting the public pay the bill, Henry F. Westheimer, chairman of the importers' group of the Converters' Association of New York, said January 8 in replying to a recent statement of Morgan Butler, president of the National Cotton Manufacturers' Association. Mr. Butler had said that the tariff of 1922 had proved inadequate for the protection of New Bedford mills. "Adequate protection for New Bedford mills by prohibitive rates means exclusion--then the domestic manufacturers can raise their prices and the public pay the bill in full," said Mr. Westheimer. "The importers of cotton goods do not demand an unreasonably low tariff and base their success on superior workmanship and their ability to introduce new fabrics which meet the public demands. Until New Bedford becomes educated to the real problem they will continue to look for protective class legislation as a cure-all for inadequacy of organization."(Press,Jan.9.)

Europe and Grain Shortage

An editorial in The Saturday Evening Post for January 10 says: "The full extent of the grain-crop failure of the Northern Hemisphere is only gradually coming to light. According to the present estimates the crops of wheat, rye, barley, oats and corn are more than a billion and a quarter bushels less than in 1923. This may have a very serious meaning for Europe. North America is in position to compensate for the short crops. The poor Canadian wheat crop merely means less export. Our corn crop is short and rather poor, which means adaptations in the feeding of animals and little or no export. Indeed, we profit by the short crops of wheat and rye, because we shall scrape our bins and export all the remains of the old and the new crops at high prices. The high prices for feed grains mean higher meat prices later on, but this means also a revival of animal husbandry, which is still suffering from the post-war decline of prices. In any event, we can adapt ourselves. But for Europe the situation is more difficult and complex. They have a fair crop of potatoes and a good crop of sugar beets. That will help some. The number of domesticated animals is not yet restored to the pre-war count, which is in a way fortunate at present, since feed grains are scarce and dear. This spring Europe may again plant gardens like the war gardens of ten years ago. The buying power of Europe, gradually recovering, is hardly in position to stand the increased prices for bread grains and fodder grains. Europe is importing wheat heavily, nor is the rate of import apparently retarded by the clamor against the higher bread prices...."

Farm Tenancy and Ownership

Farm and Ranch for January 10 says: "Dr. F. A. Buechel, head of the department of agricultural administration, A. and M. College of Texas, does not view the problems of tenancy with alarm. According to the doctor, tenancy is necessary to the development of our agricultural resources, and that only through tenancy can we expect many of those engaged in agriculture to become landowners. Dr. Buechel believes that there is much room for improvement in the form of contract between landowner and renter, and also, that tenants, as a class, do not maintain as high a standard of agriculture as they should. It is upon these phases of tenancy the doctor thinks we should center our efforts.... Tenancy is the stepping stone to farm ownership. Many owners of to-day were the tenants of yesterday, and while land is higher in price, the opportunities for ownership and independence are not lacking. All tenants will not become landowners. As in all other industries, we find poor managers; men without ambition; the shiftless, and those too stubborn to admit that property rights should be respected, and who abuse the property placed in their care. These must be driven from the farm to laborers' jobs in town where the boss will have more direct control of them. Our farms must be occupied by men who believe in their ability to make the soil yield without destroying it, and who are capable of entering into a fair partnership agreement with the owner. Some of the problems of tenancy will be solved when land is owned by men who have a greater interest in the productive than they have in its speculative value....It is quite the practice to condemn the shiftless tenant, but we might well ask, who is responsible for conditions which lend encouragement to shiftlessness and irresponsibility on the part of those who occupy such a large portion of the lands in this country?"

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in Public Works for December says: "During the past few days two reports have reached this office, each giving the results of investigations conducted by a department of the Federal Government. But there the similarity stops. One gives the results of investigations conducted between June, 1923, and June, 1924. It gives them briefly, because most of them have already been made public. The other describes and gives the results of investigations made between July, 1913, and December, 1916, and describes them in detail because they have not previously been made public. The U.S. Bureau of Public Roads made its report for 1923--1924 under date of October 15th and six weeks later distributed printed copies of the same. The U.S. Public Health Service presented its report for the period 1913-1916 in March, 1924, and printed copies of it were ready for distribution about seven months later. Nor does the above comparison tell the whole story. The Bureau of Public Roads publishes a monthly in which appear descriptions of investigations under way, results to date, and tentative conclusions based thereon; and its engineers and investigators are always ready to give any information available in the form of articles for appropriate periodicals and papers before highway organizations. This difference in the practice of the two bureaus is, we understand, due to their opposite policies; the one, that no information concerning an investigation should be given out--especially no tentative conclusions--until a final report can be prepared and approved by the head of the service, for fear that later data or more mature deliberation may to some extent require modification of them; the other, that the public is entitled to such advantage as may be had from immediate knowledge of individual results and tentative conclusions. The advantage of the latter policy is frequently great. It stimulates coincident investigation by others along similar lines and thus secures a much broader and more varied assortment of data upon which the bureau's investigators may base their conclusions; while, its own data as well as those others being known, its conclusions can be checked by experts outside the bureau, thus increasing both the reliability of the conclusions and the confidence of everyone in them. Whether or not this cooperation with outside agents was a predetermined feature of the policy of the Bureau of Public Roads, it has become a most important one, not only in encouraging investigations by others, but also in generating public interest in and understanding of its own investigations and conclusions, and thus securing that confidence in its work which, as public officials and departments are ever anew discovering, results from frank and full publicity. A disadvantage of the other policy is that reports may be and frequently are so long delayed as to have little except historic value when finally published....To our mind, the only defensible policy with respect to scientific investigations, especially those made with public funds, is prompt publicity of all results, rather than waiting until a final and complete report can be made....."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 9: Maine sacked Green Mountain potatoes $1.50 to $1.60 in eastern cities; bulk stock mostly 65¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. Maryland and Delaware yellow sweet potatoes $2.25 to $2.85 per bushel hamper in the East. New Jersey yellows mostly $3 to $3.25. Tennessee Nancy Halls $2.25 to $2.50 in Chicago and St. Louis. New York Danish type cabbage closed firm at $30 to $35 bulk per ton, top of $40 in Philadelphia; $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Golden Self-blanching celery 50 to 75¢ higher at $3 to $3.50 per 2/3 crate in eastern markets; best stock $3.50 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida stock mostly $3.50 to $3.75 per 10-inch crate, top of $4.25 in Pittsburgh. New York Baldwin apples steady at $5.50 to $6.50 per barrel. Virginia and West Virginia York Imperials $4.75 to $5.75.

Chicago hog prices closed at $10.90 for the top and $9.60 to $10.65 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.50 to $13.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $11; feeder steers $4.50 to $7.65; light and medium weight veal calves $9 to $13; fat lambs $15.75 to $18.50; feeding lambs $14.50 to $17.10.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: Philadelphia 42 1/2¢; Boston 42¢.

Grain prices quoted January 9: No.2 red winter Chicago $1.88 3/4; St. Louis $2; Kansas City $1.88 to $1.91. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.79 1/2; St. Louis $1.77 1/2; Kansas City $1.70 to $1.87. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.18. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.29; Kansas City $1.20 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.22; St. Louis $1.23 to $1.25. No.3 white oats Chicago 58 to 59 1/4¢; St. Louis 60 1/2 to 61 1/2¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 5 points, closing at 23.67¢ per lb. New York January future contracts up 10 points, closing at 23.65¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 9	Jan. 8,	Jan. 9, 1924
20 Industrials	122.32	121.61	97.04
20 R.R.stocks	100.78	100.19	83.06

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 10.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVI, no.9 Section 1 January 12, 1925

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION The first report of the agricultural commission, recommending legislation to relieve economic distress on American farms, will be handed to President Coolidge next week, in the hope that Congress will find time before it adjourns on March 4 to enact it in whole or in part. The report will deal with the livestock situation, which, in the opinion of the commission and other Government authorities, is the most pressing agricultural problem up for consideration. It is understood that the commission will recommend several remedies to stimulate the livestock industry, chief among which will be financial aid through the medium of cooperative institutions and the intermediate banks. The commission also will suggest that a transfer of hides from the free list to the dutiable list of the Tariff law would aid American livestock raisers. The cattlemen are represented to be in a serious situation. Many have been wiped out financially, the Agricultural Commission has been informed. Accordingly, the President will make a determined effort to get action on the commission's livestock report before adjournment in March. A delegation of cattlemen and commission house men, after talking with the Farm Commission January 10, issued a statement which said: "Future financing of the industry must have in view restoration of its credit on a basis of permanency. What is desirable now is placing the cattle production on a safe, sound and sane basis. The cattle industry needs a tariff on hides, this market being a dumping ground at present for the surplus hides of the world. What we anticipate is a condition where cattle supply and beef demand will be more evenly balanced, relieving the beef market of chronic congestion." (Press, Jan.11.)

BORDER CATTLE DUTY Representative Garner of Texas announced in the House January 10 that he had abandoned his fight for a bill to extend the time in which livestock taken across the Mexican or Canadian boundaries for grazing could be brought back free of duty, because of opposition by Secretary Mellon and Republican members of the committee. (Press, Jan. 11.)

POTATO MARKETS The press to-day states that new probable markets for American potatoes, excluded from Great Britain under an embargo, have been found in Egypt, Brazil and Argentina. The Commerce Department recently cabled to eight countries seeking a market, and has been advised that Egypt wants quotations on trial shipments, that the market in Brazil looks good, if exemptions from import duties can be extended, and that Argentina is interested in the purchase of seed potatoes, in which market France previously has dominated.

A dispatch from Portland, Me., to the press today states that the British steamship "Cainvalono" is on the ocean with ten carloads of Aroostook potatoes, destined for England. An embargo was placed by Great Britain subsequent to the date fixed for shipment. It is expected the barrier will be lifted to allow this consignment to be landed.

PRUNE MARKET A San Jose dispatch to the press to-day states that for the first time in several years, there is a strong probability of a consistently rising prune market during the winter months, according to a bulletin by the California Prune and Apricot Growers' Association.

Section 2

British Meat Probe

An Associate Press dispatch from London January 10 says: "The sitting of the royal commission which is investigating food prices yesterday was largely devoted to the question of meat supplies and the effect of the alleged trust's costs of cold storage and other incidentals The proceedings are being enlivened by the rather brusque treatment which the chairman of the commission, Sir Auckland Geddes, gives to witnesses suspected of having a hand in maintaining high prices. F.S.Forsyth, London manager of the New Zealand Meat Producers' Board, who testified yesterday, repudiated the suggestion of Sir Auckland that he was in a position to control the flow of New Zealand meat to England or that his board used its position to raise prices. Mr. Forsyth blamed the British refrigerator companies. A.R.R.Hassan, resident representative of the Australian Meat Council, suggested that unnecessary immediate profits might be eliminated by more economic methods of marketing. Captain Jewell, director of the Estancia Properties, Ltd., explained the conditions prevailing in Argentina and declared that if excessive profits were being made it must be due to the fact that the main British importing interests financially controlled thousands of retail shops."

Contracts

National Stockman and Farmer for January 10 says: "We believe that the best contract between a farmer and his selling organization is one that permits him to withdraw during a stated period. There are often good business reasons for contracts, and usually both business and psychological reasons for such a contract as just mentioned. There may be other reasons, at least the courts have found some cases in which a long-time contract between the farmer and his organization can not be enforced by the latter. They have ruled that a contract which is devoid of mutuality can not be upheld. A delinquent organization can not enforce its contract against a farmer who disregards it. In a case in which the organization could not make returns, and the necessities of the farmer compelled him to sell outside, the court held that he was justified in his breach of contract. The courts have also decided that when a crop is mortgaged and the lender demands sale for purpose of repayment the farmer has a right to sell regardless of his contract, even if the mortgage is of later date than the contract. Furthermore the farmer has a right to mortgage a crop even if it is under contract. In many cases contracts have been upheld by the courts and in most cases justly, for a contract should be more than a scrap of paper. But it would be unjust to hold farmers to such a contract as that existing between thousands of them and the U.S. Grain Growers, Inc., because that corporation has not fulfilled and can not fulfill its part of the agreement....At the end of this experiment in contracts it will be found that those which are equitable in terms and in practice will stand in court and the others will not. The best way to avoid trouble over them is by a proviso for withdrawal at such time and for such a period as is fair to both parties."

Farming in Texas

Farm and Ranch for January 10 says: "The success of a farmer is not always measured by the number of bales of cotton he produces or the amount of money he receives therefor. Success is not entirely measured in terms of receipts. The amount a farmer spends for things he should have produced for himself is an important factor when it comes to casting a balance at the end of the season. What does it profit a man to

produce $3,000 worth of cotton if the cost of production plus the cost of feed and feedstuffs amount to an equal sum? As a matter of fact, the farmer is a loser even though he breaks even on income and outgo, for his soils have been robbed of a vast amount of plant food, which means a possibly smaller yield the following season. The successful farmer is the man who produces for himself and family and his livestock first, and a money crop second. By diversifying and rotating, by farming with livestock as a part of the farm equipment, and by attention to soil-building crops, he ends the season with his land more valuable from a productive standpoint than it was in the beginning and, in addition, has produced much of his own living right at home. His cotton and other money crops pay the taxes and interest, if any, and probably there is something left for new farm equipment or for some additional comfort or luxury for the home. The one-crop system of farming has led to financial disaster in many sections of the country. It can not long be practiced in Texas or other Southwestern States without depriving the soil of its original fertility and multiplying many times the number of abandoned farms. Texas needs more successful farmers and fewer one-crop gamblers."

Food and Clothing Resources The Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram for January 6 says: "Self preservation being the first law of nature the entire human family turns first to food and then to clothing and shelter and all of these must come from off the land. The very fact that the world's population has doubled in the last 60 years and now stands at one billion seven hundred million persons, or thereabouts, should give the farmers something to think about. It will double again in fifty years. At the end of the twentieth century it will be five billion people and the end of the twenty-first century 17 billion and at the end of the twenty-second century 60 billion persons....But the very fact that the world's population is going to be doubled to three billion four hundred million in the next 50 years does mean that more food and more clothing are going to be required and a major portion of these people are going to be living in cities that will be so expanded in the next fifty years as to reach far out into what is now country. This thing of city farming will become rarer and rarer and town gardens will become more a thing of the past. It will take more wool and more cotton and other things from which fabrics are made to clothe the world and it is going to take a lot of food to ration the three billion four hundred million folks that will be in the world when 1975 rolls around....There are great open spaces in Africa, South America, Mexico and even in Canada and the United States, that can yet be subjugated as food producing areas. Asia and particularly Siberia can be made to produce many many times their present food supplies and wool can be grown in Siberia. Russia will hit its stride some day. But it looks like Africa and South America and Siberia will have to undergo the greatest intensive development as the world's population increases. The United States can and will increase production but it will be through reclamation and irrigation projects; the uses of fertilizers and the maintenance of its original soil fertility through crop rotation and other soil builders. But it can go a less distance towards super-production than can South America, Africa, parts of Australia, Siberia and Russia. The value of all farm land in the United States and Canada will be greatly enhanced from time to time and for all time to come as the population of the American continent increases and as Europe's population thickens up and its lands can not keep pace with population with its production.

The lands of the United States and Canada will be more valuable because they are more closely situated to the big cities that now control the commerce of the world and because they are located in the most enlightened and progressive part of the earth. A good Iowa farm is worth much more than its equivalent in fertility in Brazil or Argentina, because of the social conditions that prevail in Iowa as compared with those in Brazil or Argentina. A good farm in Illinois or Missouri or Kansas or Nebraska is worth much more than its equivalent in fertility in Siberia and Russia because of social and economic conditions that surround the farms of these States. It is only a question of time until the United States can not produce enough to support its own people. The lands of the country, dear to the hearts of the farmers who have poured their life blood into them and who have built them up through toil and struggle, are going to become more valuable every day. They are the greatest thin in the world to-day for they are the only hope of sustenance that the entire country has."

German Potash Amalgamation — A Frankfort-on-Main dispatch to the press of January 10 states that the Wintershall Company, the foremost German potash group, is negotiating with the Prussian Government for combining its interests with the Prussian State potash works.

Muscle Shoals — The Journal of Commerce for January 10 says: "If the recent acti of the Senate is in fact to be interpreted as a determination on the part of Congress not to permit out and out Government development and operation of plants in existence or to be constructed at Muscle Shoals at least the first step in the right direction has been taken. There never has been any reason why the farmer should be subsidized in the way Senator Norris and others of his way of thinking desired in connection with this water power site. It is, furthermore, true that there is much reason to doubt whether the farmer would benefit in any case to anything like the extent that many appear to suppose. In short, if the Norris bill is put to sleep for all time the country has reason to congratulate itself. But on its constructive side the situation is still about where it was. The Senate may have been able to make up its mind in part what it will not do in this matter, but if it has arrived at any definite conclusion what it will do the rank and file of the people have not been so informed. Yet it ought not to have taken Congress more than a very short period of time to decide what ought to be done and, incidentally, to do it. The situation should be treated just as others have already been dealt with in the Federal Water Power act. Perhaps the time will come when it is possible for our national legislators to view this whole business in the light of common sense, but it is far from clear that that day has yet arrived."

Price Level — Wallaces' Farmer for January 9 says: "Dr. G. F. Warren, of Cornell University, is one of the few farm economists who take a genuine interes in where the future price level is going. He thinks the chances are at least ten to one that fifteen or twenty years from now general prices will be down to the pre-war level. As long as we are on the gold stand he can see no other possible outcome, barring, of course, the discovery of extremely large quantities of new gold. Only about 220 million dol of new gold are available each year for monetary purposes and as soon as European countries get back on a gold standard, as most of them inevita will in the next ten years, this amount of gold will not be sufficient to

maintain the present world price level. The probable inflation of the next two or three years may disguise this situation but sooner or later we will have to face the fact that we are headed toward pre-war prices. Warren rather took the view that the farmer who can sell out to good advantage during the rather temporary prosperity of the next two or three years might just as well do so rather than face the long slow pull of deflation to pre-war prices."

Pulpwood Export from Quebec A Quebec dispatch to the press of January 9 says: "Signs of a change in policy on the part of the Quebec Government as regards the exportation of pulpwood were noted in speeches made in the Quebec Legislature in addresses January 8 in both the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Hitherto, the policy of the Taschereau Government has been against a Federal embargo. There were two speeches in each House of the Legislature, all believed to be guided by Government policy, and in each case the Speaker suggested the necessity of keeping the raw forest materials at home. It is not expected that there will be legislation at this session, but an attempt will be made to educate the public in that direction. What prevents the Government from going ahead now is that prohibition of the export of pulpwood would harm the colonists in the newer sections of the province. They would lose the American market, and thereby get lower prices for the wood they cut, and during the first few years colonists live chiefly on the sale of wood they cut on their farms. The best review of the situation is given by Gerard Power, a member of the Legislative Council, who is strongly for an embargo, but not immediately, and wishes to give the foreign investor due warning. 'We can not continue to permit enormous quantities of pulpwood, approximately 750,000 cords a year, to be exported for manufacture in foreign mills,' he said. 'It is necessary to convince our people by education that sooner or later it will become the duty of the Government to prohibit the export to any foreign country of forest products which have not been put through at least a process of manufacture within the Dominion.'"

Wheat Shortage A New York dispatch to the press of January 6 says: "One of the largest exporters here figures that European import requirements will be around 800,000,000 bushels for the season and that the situation is developing such an acute shortage that reserves will be used up by the end of the season. They see nothing but a heavy demand for the next 6 months with wheat getting harder to buy. A late message from the Department of Agriculture at Washington, estimates the world wheat crop at 440,000,000 bushels short of last year. It is estimated that Italy will have to buy more than 100,000,000 bushels this season, as its crop has been consumed."

Wool Market American Wool and Cotton Reporter for January 8 says: "Confidence and bullishness generally characterize the Boston wool men, in spite of reports that they are very apprehensive. The wool trade is apparently much disturbed over an article which recently appeared in a Boston newspaper. The reader would be inclined to think that some very cheap wool could be obtained somewhere in the market. That at least is the impression which it gave some wool men. It is difficult to find anyone who is bearish on the wool market. One printed statement was made that there was a decided tendency to dispose of imports as quickly as possible. As a matter of fact, much of the foreign wool that is arriving is sold before it reaches here. The difficulty, wool men say, is not in getting rid of wool but in replacing it after it is sold. One importer of wool from

France and Belgium has been receiving large lots of samples from those countries. Before the samples arrived, the importing house received postcards advising sales of 35 of the lots representing more than 1,000,000 pounds of wool. Of all the samples which came, a few represented wool still unsold, but the preceding shows the state of the market abroad....One strong feature of the world wool market is the condition of Germany as far as supplies are concerned. Cables have been received that Germany has no stock of raw wool, and is buying on a hand-to-mouth basis at present, but will probably be a large buyer later. Advices from Tasmania indicate competition there."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended January 10: Eastern potatoes steady at shipping points, firm in city markets. Northern stock slightly weaker than a week ago. New York sacked Round Whites mostly $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in the East; $1 to $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage weakened slightly to $25 to $35 bulk per ton in city markets; steady at $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. Onions generally firm. New York yellows ranged $3 to $3.40 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $3 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Golden Self-blanching celery $3.50 to $4 per 2/3 crate in the East; best stock $3.50 f.o.b. Rochester. California Golden Hearts ranged $5.50 to $7.50 per crate. Florida stock $3.50 to $3.75 per 10-inch crate. Best Baldwin apples few sales, $7.50 per barrel in New York.

Stocker and feeder shipments from 12 important markets during the week ending January 2 were: Cattle and calves 24,857; hogs 2,901; sheep 32,383. In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets veal is $2 to $5 higher, lamb $2 lower to $1 higher; mutton weak to $2 lower and pork loins 50¢ higher to $1 lower.

Butter markets irregular and very unsettled during week ending January 10.Production appeared to be increasing slightly from week to week. Closing prices of 92 score: New York 41¢; Chicago 39 1/2¢; Philadelphia 42 1/2¢; Boston 42¢.

Cheese markets firm following the 1 to 1 1/2¢ advance at primary markets. Trade showed considerable improvement, but continued irregular. Wholesale prices on Wisconsin primary markets January 9: Twins 23 1/4¢; Single Daisies 24 1/2¢; Longhorns 24 3/4¢; Square Prints 24 3/4¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 24 points during the week, closing at 23.65¢ per lb. New York January future contracts declined 20 points, closing at 23.60¢.

Wheat market firm particularly for soft winters which reached new high price levels at Chicago and St. Louis. Export demand moderate but milling demand was more active. Oats steady but current demand scarcely equal to receipts. Corn higher with wheat but cash selling at rather wide discounts under future prices. (Prepared by Bu.of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 10,	Jan. 9,	Jan. 10, 1924
20 Industrials	122.16	122.32	97.23
20 R.R. stocks	100.40	100.78	82.80

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 12.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XVI, no. 10 Section 1 January 13, 1925

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Recommendations for relief of the livestock industry occupied the attention again yesterday of the agricultural commission. These will be submitted to President Coolidge next week, Chairman Carey announcing that the report, which was expected to be completed yeserday, would await the return here of Fred H. Bixby, president of the American National Live Stock Association and member of the commission, who is attending the association's convention at Albuquerque, N. Mex. Pending completion of the livestock report the commission will take up cooperative marketing of farm products. There is no forecast now as to when this section of the report will be completed, but administration leaders at the Capitol are of the opinion that none of the recommendations will reach Congress in time for action at this session. (Press, Jan. 13.)

BORAH ASKS FARMER RELIEF

The press to-day says: "While the President's agricultural commission continued yesterday to wrestle with the problem of farm relief, Senator Borah urged in the Senate that there be an early extra session of the new Congress to enact legislation dealing with the subject.

Calling attention to the fact that farm aid had been a predominant issue in the last campaign, the Idaho Senator declared the problem confronting the country, if the farmers are to have any permanent relief, is the same as it was before the election. 'I want to register my protest,' he said, 'against the proposition that agriculture has adjusted itself or will adjust itself in the near future.' Betterments in some lines of agriculture, he continued, have been due to two causes, the failure of crops in Europe and the Dawes reparation plan. He added, however, that the Dawes plan could not be of lasting benefit unless the amount of reparations to be paid by Germany is fixed at a definite sum."

Mr. Borah said he read from a newspaper the statement that while some Republicans wanted a special session, many feel that the improved condition of agriculture made an extra session unnecessary. "That seems to be the attitude that is being assumed by a majority of those in power," Mr. Borah said, "that as conditions are improved, the farm problems can be put aside until next December. In my opinion, the fundamental problem is not changed at all and the better conditions in some localities are due to transient causes." The real farm problem was not temporary or local, Mr. Borah added, but had become national. The tax burden of the farmers, he said, had increased from $624,000,000 in 1913 to $1,700,000,000 in 1922, and was increasing at the rate of 8 per cent a year. While this was due largely to the activities of State Governments, he felt that the national Government should do what it could to discourage this exploitation of the farmer. The farmer was not in a position to conceal his profits, Mr. Borah added, and taxes were 11.6 per cent of income in the farming districts, as against 4 per cent in the rest of the community. The Senator said he believed in a "thorough system of marketing, not voluntary, but in which the Government of the United States may have a directing hand." That would reach down to the fundamental problem, he explained, and until it was worked out the condition of the farmer would be very little better than at present. "The rise in the price of wheat," he continued, "may enable the farmer to get by for the moment, but it will not enable him to get on that side of Easy Street where he will be able to face the crisis which may come."

Section 2

Cooperation

The New York Times of January 12 says: "The farmers of the country do not want to be the object of Government paternalism and they desire no 'leading strings' in the form of assistance, regulation or supervision, declared Carl Williams of Oklahoma City, vice president of the National Council of the Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations, in an intervie yesterday at New York...'An economic remedy for an economic problem' was the method put forward by Mr. Williams. It was this suggestion by the council last week to Congress, it is said, which settled the fate of farmer relief legislation for this session at least. Mr. Williams described the tremendous growth of the farmers' cooperative movement since its beginning less than five years ago and of the many difficulties with which it was confronted before it was put, at least for its own members, on a business basis. To-day, he said, the farmers raise millions in Wall Street on equal terms with other large borrowers."

Cooperative Marketing Bills

National Stockman and Farmer for January 10 says: "Two bills now before Congress are being supported by those who think that agriculture can be helped by further Federal legislation. One of them is the Curtis-Aswell bill to encourage agricultural cooperative associations. It proposes to establish an Interstate Marketing Association, which shall establish State associations, for the purpose of marketing agricultural products.....The best thing Congress can do with such a dream as that is to waft it into some quiet pigeonhole and forget it. If the plan were feasible, and there were a good prospect of repayment, there would be no need to ask Congress for money to organize it. Producers would readily enter it and support it. As a general rule plans which they will not support are not entitled to public money in the form of loans or appropriations. The second bill is the revised Williams bill creating a Federal Marketing Board to encourage and aid the formation of cooperative marketing associations, cooperative clearing-house associations, terminal market associations, etc....This scheme calls for a Federal appropriation of $5,000,000, which is to finance worthy cooperative organizations for purposes of organization and administration. This too is to be repaid. A further appropriation of $2,000,000 is for the use of the Federal Marketing Board in carrying on its work. This bill should be disposed of in the same way as the Curtis-Aswell bill. Cooperative marketing is a business enterprise. If it can not organize itself, render service and maintain itself by charges for that service it is not likely to prosper under Federal nursing, with the handicap of Federal supervision and direction. The right sort of cooperative marketing will succeed without Federal help. The other kind does not deserve it."

Cooperative Organizations

The Courier-Journal for January 11 says: "The meeting of the National Council of Co-operative Marketing Associations, just closed in Washington, should do much to impress upon both the Government and the country the spirit which animates these organizations and the solid foundations on which they stand. For one thing, it has completely refuted the view that these organizations, in forming a national council, had any aim to invoke paternalistic assistance from the Federal Government. It also demonstrates that the hundreds of thousands of farmers who are represented in these associations are not to be classed with the various armies of subsidy seekers from the national Treasury, or with the growing ranks of Americans who look to the Government to do for them what they should do for themselves. On the contrary, the

meeting has strongly emphasized the fact that the associations realize that any such dependence upon the Government would be fatally inconsistent with the theory of their existence and objects. This spirit was unmistakably manifested not only in the speeches but also in the resolutions adopted by the Council.... Naturally men holding such sound views look with disfavor upon the well-meaning but mistaken efforts at Washington to bring the Government to the aid of the cooperatives. That the various legislative proposals to this end should be condemned by the men who passed these resolutions was inevitable. 'We hold ourselves always open,' they explained, 'to Governmental inspection of methods and operation. We have nothing now to ask from the Government except a sympathetic, understanding administration of the laws and regulations which are already in force for the assistance and supervision of cooperative marketing associations.' Surely at Washington, as well as elsewhere, the cooperative associations will now be better understood and more respected than ever. And surely associations founded on such principles are founded on a rock."

Corn Prices

The Wall Street Journal for January 12 says: "In January, 1924, corn for May delivery at Chicago sold as low as 73 5/8 cents a bushel, and in December as high as $1.33 1/4. This increase of nearly 60 cents a bushel if translated into the language of the Stock Exchange would represent a gain of 80 points. Corn, therefore, can claim place in the front rank of last year's market thrillers. As the corn crop year begins on the first of November two crops enter into the price making of the past calendar year--the 1923 crop until the end of May, and from that time on, the 1924 crop. The prices in January were based on the crop of 1923, which, with carryover, amounted to 3,143,000,000 bushels. These prices were about 3 cents a bushel more than those of the year before, which were based on another large crop exceeding that of 1923. Adam Smith taught that, other things being equal, the value of money varies inversely with its volume. That rule holds true with corn, the 'other things' being principally the number of cattle and hogs on feed, the volume of other feedstuffs and the ability of the markets, domestic and foreign, to consume pork products. The volume of the present corn supply is considerably below that of the past two seasons. Crop and carryover amount to 2,546,000,000 bushels against 3,142,400,000 last year and 3,152,394,000 two years ago. Thus the volume is at least 20 per cent less than in the two preceding seasons. Moreover, corn, unlike pure gold, varies in quality, and the quality this year is such as still further to decrease the supply. In real feeding volume our corn supply is about two-thirds that of the preceding seasons ! At present the 'other things' are about in balance. In the next few months, however, they should lose in weight and be less of an offsetting influence. There are fewer pigs in the country than a year ago to consume the corn, but farmers have been rushing lightweight pigs to market and there will be a scarcity of pork in the near future compared with the supply of last year. Domestic and foreign markets will be in as good position to consume pork as last year, and probably better. The entire corn supply is not equal to farm demand alone and, while the oat crop is somewhat larger than a year ago, it does not make up for the deficiency. The 'other things' will not offset the decrease in volume of corn. Since the first of August the decreased volume of the crop has been growing plainer and clearer and value rose from 98 3/8 cents to $1.33 1/4 a bushel. Its value above or below this last figure will vary in the spring and summer months according as the 'other things' do or do not offset the volume."

Farm Tool Exports

American agricultural machinery came into a great world demand during 1924, after three years of considerable depression. For the eleven months, including November, 1924, the Commerce Department announced January 11 the United States exported agricultural machinery valued at $56,431,000, or about $9,500,000 more than during the same period of 1923 and more than twice the total for the entire year of 1922 (Press, Jan. 12.)

Forest Conservation Legislation

The Humboldt (Nev.) Star for January 7 says: "A dispatch from Washington says a ten-year program under which $40,000,000 would be appropriated for purchase of forest land and for forest conservation would be authorized under a bill just introduced by Senator McNary of Oregon. It provides for the purchase of 8,000,000 acres at points where flood danger is becoming greater and greater each year as the timber is cut away. We have never been strong for reckless expenditure, and that is largely what happens to our river and harbor appropriations. But we do believe it would be a wise move for this Government to invest some of its surplus millions in the purchase of forests, in every section of the United States. The slaughter of timber means a day when the entire country will either by subjected to floods that will destroy both life and property, or billions will have to be spent in construction work intended to do just what forests are now doing--preventing floods. We can't help feeling that this kind of investment is as sensible as any Congress could make."

French Bread Price

A Paris dispatch to the press of January 11 says: "When, under the Poincare Government, the price of bread crossed the high-water mark of 1 franc and reached the unprecedented figure of 1 franc 15 centimes for a kilogram, the Socialists made the fact the basis for one of their bitterest attacks on the Government. Now bread costs 1 franc 45 centimes, and January 10 it was officially announced the price will be 1 franc 50, ten days hence. The rise coincides with an unprecedented rise in nearly all food commodities and the French housewife is faced with a fresh problem to make ends meet, there being no corresponding tendency to advance salaries."

Livestock

An editorial in The Breeder's Gazette for January 8 says:"... The logical and decided trend in agriculture is toward more efficient livestock than now exists on most farms carrying herds, flocks or studs, and toward the introduction of improved stockraising on thousands of farms on which it hitherto has been a neglected or undeveloped enterprise. A declining soil fertility, widely fluctuating prices, scarce and expensive labor, increased taxation, disease and insect foes, a greatly increased production of legumes and grass, and a consequent change in farm practices are some of the factors which in recent years have greatly strengthened the foundation for an increased and improved animal industry. Profitable prices for meat, dairy and power stocks would be far more acceptable than this line of reasoning to producers, and would do more than anything else to interest 'new men' in the business of stockraising, thereby increasing the income of breeders. But prices that will reward the majority of producers can not be expected until the basic conditions which make them possible and sound shall have been established. These conditions, which are interwoven with the Nation's business in particular and world commerce in general, improved markedly during the past year, and are still improving.

Unfortunately for all business interests, and especially stockraisers, they can not improve rapidly and healthily at the same time; it is a comparatively slow process, like the growth of a tree. Moreover, stock raising as a business can not be 'speeded up'; its turn-overs are relatively far apart; it takes time to build up or tear down a major indust deep-set in the soil of a Nation. Tangible evidence of the oncoming of better days for stockmen is accumulating. For several years all of us have been indulging largely in hope, for we hadn't much concrete evidence on which to base the kind of reassurance which our correspondent requests. Happily, hope may now be coupled with considerable first-class evidence and many indications and trade symptoms which presage the approach of brighter days for stockmen.

Wheat Situation

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger in the issue of January 10, says: "Assuming that every farmer in Canada the United States, Argentina and Australia is willing to market every available bushel of wheat, regardless of his price expectation or his new crop outlook, the stock of wheat available between now and the firs of July is such that the world is short by 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels of its minimum food requirements for the remainder of the crop year. This is the opinion of Julius H. Barnes, most noted and one of the most competent grain authorities in the United States, expressed after a careful survey of the world wheat situation. Undoubtedly Mr. Barnes is speaking from hope rather than faith when he intimates that there is even the possibility that the farmer of this and other wheat-raising countries will not withhold wheat in anticipation of further price advancement. It is almost axiomatic that the higher farm-produce prices go, and the greater the profit currently possible to the farmer, the more loath he is to give up his stuff. At $2 a bushel, there is more tendency to withhold wheat from the market than at $1. All this is in line with the statements made here recently and repeatedly that foreigners are taking our grain market from us. The Orient--principally Japan--has virtually exhausted the flour supply on the West Coast, whence it naturally draws its cargoes. Japan is now calling on New York for offerings of flour in large quantities. The present inquiry is for 1,000,000 barrels. This gives eastern mills a new participation in an export business that has been going largely to Canadian producers. Russia continues to be an important and urgent buyer of flour--virtually from Winnipeg. One milling company there has just completed shipping 300,000 barrels to Russia, and another mill is working on a similar order. Russia asked for two more cargoes yesterday, which means an additional 100,000 barrels.

"The Barnes reasoning is fairly well stated in the following resume of his statement: 'The recent figures of Nat C. Murray as basis--and they seem to be right--would indicate the United States has a surplus for export in the next six months of 50,000,000 bushels. The equivalent of this would move for export in the form of trademarked flour to the West Indies and South America and low-grade flour to Europe, regardless of price, so that virtually as far as actual export of wheat is concerned, the United States may be deemed to be through on a long-range view. Every million bushels shipped now means a more acute domestic position later. Even these figures contemplate attracting from the farm every last bushel. If 5 per cent of American farmers hold for higher prices, or until they see the outcome of their new crop, then even this close adjustment is upset. This is the explanation why

red winter wheat is being drained from all points of accumulation. With six months to go, the great territory east of the Mississippi must soon begin to take low protein winter wheat from Chicago, Omaha and Kansas City, now extending this into the world bread grain....'"

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 12: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.05 for the top and $10.10 to $10.90 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.35 to $13.25; butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $10.75; feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.75 to $12.50; fat lambs $15.75 to $18.50; feeding lambs $14.50 to $17.25; yearlings $13 to $16.50 and fat ewes $7 to $10.75.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $1 f.o.b. Rochester. Maine sacked Green Mountains $1.45 to $1.60 in the East; bulk stock mostly 65¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. Maryland and Delaware yellow sweet potatoes $2.25 to $2.85 per bushel hamper in the East. New York Danish type cabbage generally $3 to $7 lower closing at $24 to $32 bulk per ton in city markets about steady at $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow onions $3 to $3.25 sacked per 100 pounds in Philadelphia and Baltimore; $3 f.o.b. Rochester. Best New York Baldwin apples brought $6.50 to $7 per barrel in New York and Chicago.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 39 1/2¢; Chicago 38 1/2¢; Boston 40 1/2¢; Philadelphia 40 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted January 12: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.80 to $2.15. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.93 1/2 to $1.94; St.Louis $2.06; Kansas City $1.95 to $2.01. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.81 1/2 to $1.84; St. Louis $1.81 to $1.82 1/2; Kansas City $1.73 to $1.93. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.18 to $1.19. No.2 yellow corn Kansas City $1.21. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.23 to $1.24 1/2; Minneapolis $1.23 to $1.26; St. Louis $1.25 1/2 to $1.27. No.3 white corn St.Louis $1.24 1/2 to $1.25; No.4 white corn Chicago $1.17 to $1.17 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 58 to 59 1/2¢; Minneapolis 55 1/8 to 55 3/8¢; St. Louis 61 to 61 1/2¢.

Average prices of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 19 points, closing at 23.84¢ per lb. New York January futures up 21 points closing at 23.81¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 12,	Jan. 10,	Jan. 12, 1924
20 Industrials	123.21	122.16	97.25
20 R.R. stocks	100.47	100.40	82.63

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 13.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

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SENATE PASSES DEFICIENCY BILL — The Senate yesterday passed the first deficiency appropriation bill for this year, carrying $159,000,000, of which $150,000,000 is to be used for tax refunds. A sum of $2,600,000 was added by the Senate to the measure as passed by the House. Of this amount $200,000 was approved for use on the Yuma, Ariz., irrigation project on the motion of Senator Cameron. An item for $50,000 for expenses of the farm commission appointed by President Coolidge, rejected as an amendment by the House, was approved by the Senate, and $50,000 also was added to the bill for the President's oil conservation board. The measure also included an item for $3,501,200, approved by the House, for continuation of work on dam No. 2 of the Muscle Shoals plant.(Press, Jan. 14.)

MUSCLE SHOALS BILL — The Senate yesterday adopted the Jones substitute, under which the whole Muscle Shoals problem would be referred to a commission for investigation and report, by a vote of 46 to 33. Senator Norris then offered his amendment in the nature of a substitute, providing for Government operation, and it was agreed to by a vote of 40 to 39. Immediately Senator Underwood reoffered his measure, with a new section added, and after objection by Senator Norris the presiding officer ruled it in order. Senator Norris appealed from the decision and the chair was sustained by a vote of 52 to 32. The Underwood proposal, therefore, is again before the Senate. Senate leaders, convinced that with this shifting of votes no headway could be made, the Muscle Shoals bill was laid aside for the day. (Press, Jan. 14.)

PUBLIC PRINTER CALLS FOR DOCUMENT HALT — Encouraged by the increase in the sale of Government publications, George H. Carter, Public Printer, renewed his recommendation to Congress January 10 that it stop the free distribution of Government documents and put substantially all of them on a sales basis. He declared that 25,000,000 copies of publications have been wasted in free distribution by Congress and the departments in 10 years, at a loss of not less than $600,000 a year. Mr. Carter states in his report that for the Department of Agriculture 9,838,027 farmers' bulletins were printed during the year. (Press, Jan.12.)

PACKERS ASK EXTENSION — The Morris group of packers January 13 asked the District of Columbia Supreme Court for an extension of one year in the time permitted under the packers' consent decree for disposition of holdings not allied to the meat industry. (Press, Jan. 14.)

SWEDISH CATTLE EPIDEMIC — A Malmoe, Sweden, dispatch to the press to-day states that the epidemic of the hoof and mouth disease in Skaan, South Sweden, has already caused the slaughtering of 10,000 head of cattle, involving losses of nearly $2,000,000. A number of Sweden's most valuable prize breeding animals have become victims and all export of live cattle is prohibited. Local authorities are adopting drastic measures of isolation and prevention.

Section 2

British Apple Market

A British expert in fruit culture reviews the market for British apples in Country Life (London) for January 3. He says:"....There is too much soliciting of public sympathy and help through political action, too little desire for self-examination and determination for internal reform--for such an idea as cooperation is most distasteful to the vast majority of growers....There is nothing wrong with our commercial varieties of apples, though there are still several gaps to be filled in the case of dessert varieties....But in the handling, from start to finish, there is room for vast improvement among all but a very select few growers....The Federation of British Growers have agreed upon standards of packing, grading, etc., but the whole scheme is voluntary and involves a measure of cooperation....This year, two central packing houses, the one under Government auspices, the other under private control, have been opened and had successful seasons. This is a further sign that the industry is gradually developing the wider outlook. Secondly, by opening up new markets. I do not believe the industry has more than touched the fringe of the possibilities either in the home market or in export trade; but until reforms have been accomplished in improving the produce and its handling much progress can not be made along these latter lines. At home, in general, we market our fruit so unattractively and include so much rubbish that there is little encouragement for increased consumption....Better standardization, the wider use of non-returnable packages, better distribution and persistent advertisement might, with a period of industrial prosperity, double the general home market for average good apples. There can be no two opinions about this question of advertisement. To start with, the home producers should familiarize the consumers with the names of our best commercial culinary and dessert apples. There should be no more 'scrump' apples camouflaged as 'sweet eating' and 'good cooking.'... Even before the war, the advance guard among English apple growers had begun to explore the possibilities of export trade. Starting with the steamship companies, which were only too pleased to take English apples in suitable packages for their needs en route, good business was done and is still being done. Then, markets as near at hand as Paris and as far afield as the Argentine and the Cape were tried--and are still being tried--with equally encouraging results. There are even cases where English growers have successfully penetrated the United States with certain English-grown apples and have found it highly remunerative! But these outlets are only intermittently and half-heartedly used by an apple industry as a whole, simply because the individual supply of any particular quality of any particular apple is inadequate. Large and tempting orders have actually been refused because it had to be admitted that there was insufficient supply! ....Let the industry take council as a whole. Let it concentrate upon the production of a few standardized commercial varieties and eliminate the glut material, by top grafting, by fruit thinning, by more judicious and generally appled measures of pest control, and by methods of grading, packing and marketing which will at once inspire confidence and insure continuity of supply."

Eggs From The South

Progressive Farmer for January 10 says: "Three California organizations are handling 20,000,000 dozen eggs annually, and about 3,400,000 dozen of these are sold in New York City. The California eggs come in competition with some million dozens of eggs from China.

They may even meet on the same table or in the same cake. The United States Department of Agriculture is the source of the above information, but the department did not state the 'strength' of these eggs nor did it state in what language the hens that laid them cackle, but there is one thing there is no uncertainty about: The New York market would pay just as much for eggs laid by southern hens, and more. If 5,000,000 of New York's population should consume an average of one egg each day for 365 days, then 1,825,000,000 eggs would be required to supply this meager allowance. And New York is not the only city in the North that needs eggs and must have them regularly. The important question is, where will the future supply come from? If the eggs that are laid near our cotton fields and tobacco patches are to be eaten, the hens that lay them don't care a thrip whether they are eaten in the South or the North....But there are not enough hens in the South. Even if every farm flock were doubled. there would not be enough eggs to supply the demand for fresh, guaranteed eggs. On the other hand, when the South does produce regularly enough eggs for frequent carlot shipments, the northern buyers will come after them and pay cash for them. The 3,000-mile haul from California is much greater than the haul from the South, to say nothing of the yet longer haul from China. A flock of purebred hens is a mighty fine investment--fine for saving money and fine for making money. The money that goes to China and California would do us lots more good if it came to the South. And just two things are needed to bring it here--larger flocks and cooperation in selling."

Farm Bakery for Berlin — According to the press of January 13, the farmers of Germany are agitating the erection in Berlin of a gigantic bakery, to be under their control and free from the manipulations of middlemen. Their purpose is to market their wheat, in the form of bread, direct to consumers in the city.

Grain Exports — Grain exports from the United States last week were 2,501,000 bushels, compared with 2,466,000 the previous week. Commerce Department figures January 13 gave the following comparisons between last week and the week before: Wheat, 1,697,000 bushels, against 1,917,000; barley, 535,000, against 340,000; corn, 106,000, against 93,000· oats, 55,000, against 62,000; rye, 108,000, against 54,000 bushels. Canadian grain exported through United States ports were 1,559,000 bushels, against 2,618,000, while flour exports were 292,000 barrels, against 273,000. (Press, Jan. 13.)

Prune Marketing — A Portland, Ore., dispatch to the press of January 12 states that the sale of the entire pool of petite prunes of the North Pacific Prune Growers' Exchange, amounting to about 400,000 pounds, has been made to New York buyers at prices ranging from 12 cents a pound for 30 to 40s to 5 cents a pound for 100 to 120s, packed in twenty-five-pound boxes, f.o.b. Portland dock. Sale of 450,000 pounds of Oregon Italian prunes was made by the exchange for export at and above regular exchange prices.

Voronoff in Africa to Improve Sheep — A Paris dispatch to the press of January 11 says: "A dispatch from Dakar states that Dr. Voronoff, the famous gland specialist, has arrived at the capital of French West Africa, immediately starting for the interior, where he will begin experiments of the utmost importance to France and the colonies. Broadly speaking, Voronoff's aims are to transform French West Africa to a tremendous sheep-raising country, which

not only will satisfy France's demand for sheep, mutton and wool, but will permit her to export such products. The vast tracks of land in the colony are ideal for sheep ranching, but the native animals are stunted and of little commercial value. Experiments in interbreeding Madagascar sheep so far have met with little success. Dr. Voronoff, having proved by experiments for France in Tunis, that he can increase both the weight and wool of sheep by almost a third through gland grafting, believes that he can, by carrying out the grafting process for several generations, fix these superior qualities in the animals."

Waterway Legislation

An editorial in Successful Farming for January says: "There are two bills before Congress, the purpose of which is the speedy completion of our waterways so they may be used in transportation. One proposes to take a lump sum of $304,000,000 from the Treasury and with it complete the river projects within five years. The other proposes to issue bonds to the sum of $304,000,000 redeemable after ten years from date of issue, and payable within a period of thirty years. With this sum the work would be pushed to completion in about five years. The latter seems to be the most sensible plan. In either case it is the speed with which the projects are completed that is the important thing. In the past the Government has squandered millions of dollars on projects that never were completed simply because too small a force was put to work to accomplish anything. The mud washed in behind as fast as it was dredged out in front. It may not be generally known by those who have been condemning the Esch-Cummins transportation act but the fact is that it provides, and makes mandatory, a joint rate with waterways on any shipment designated to go by rail and water. Instead of the railroads killing off water transportation as they did before that act, they are compelled to cooperate to the advantage of the shippers, for water rates are always cheaper than rail rates. We either should adopt a policy of utilizing our vast waterway systems for which we have been paying millions of dollars for development that got us nowhere, or we should abandon the idea and quit spending our money. We need the opening of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence waterway. We need also, and can secure sooner, the completion of our inland waterways so that a vast tonnage of freight may find its way more cheaply and quickly from source of production to point of consumption. On one shipment of steel plates by rail and water a saving of $11,700 was made in freight charges. As long as we need to do something for flood control we may as well go a step further and develop water transportation."

Wheat Pooling in Canada

The Northwestern Miller for January 7 says: "The progress of this year's operations of the wheat pool of western Canadian farmers is being watched by the trade at home and abroad with more than casual interest. The fact that a considerable percentage of the farmers in all three of the western grain raising provinces are marketing their wheat of 1924 in this way gives the scheme an importance that did not attach to the pool of 1923, when only one province was interested. So far the course of the grain markets has been greatly in favor of the pool. When it opened its new crop trading, the price of wheat was not high and there was a certain element of risk in the decision to make the initial payment price to farmers one dollar per bushel, Fort William basis. Since that decision was made the market has been moving steadily upward, and the contention of the promoters that if a sufficient number of farmers could be induced to market their wheat in this

way prices could be favorably influenced has been vindicated. It is open to argument that this price movement was in no way determined by the operations of the pool, and that the price would have risen to where it is in any event; but the fact remains that things have turned out exactly as the advocates of pooling said they would, and no one can deny that the marketing operations of the pool have contributed to the advance in prices Fairness demands this admission. Whatever notions any one in or out of the trade may have on this subject, it is pretty clear now that the pool of 1924 will be a success and that the movement is gaining momentum. Unless the unforeseen happens there will be a large and widespread addition to the membership in the pool of 1925, and with good management this method of marketing wheat may easily become permanent."

Wheat Prices The Journal of Commerce for January 13 says: "Wheat prices have again approached record high figures after temporary recessions, probably due to profit taking on a considerable scale by some speculators who had been operating extensively for the rise. There appears to be no doubt that the shortage is extreme enough to warrant the assumption that very high prices will continue to prevail. The bearish factor in the situation is found on the demand side as the European countries short of wheat are feeling very much the pressure of the higher prices that are now ruling. Every effort will unquestionably be made to economize in wheat consumption and to protect the people against profiteering in any form. On the Continent the already high living costs resulting from inflation are a burden, greatly emphasized by the rising prices of bread and flour, while in England widespread complaints have led to the initiation of official investigation into the causes of the increased prices of foodstuffs. A British authority emphasizes the fact that high prices can not be attributed to the 'holding up' of wheat in exporting countries. Total shipments from Canada and the United States have indeed been greatly in excess of those of the preceding year, so that there is no present shortage of wheat in Great Britain, although prices are 50 per cent above those of a year ago. The price situation is, however, being determined by supplies in prospect and by prospective needs, not by amounts actually on hand."

Wool Consumption and Japan "The increasing importance of Japan as a wool consuming country is well known. American buyers of Australian and Cape wools in the primary markets have good reason to know that the progressive Orientals have a growing appetite for the same grades of the raw material that our own manufacturers use. Japan is indeed a real factor to be considered when the distribution of the world's wool supply is in question. During the next five or ten years Japan is sure to become still more important as a user of wool." (Am. Wool and Cotton Reporter, Jan. 8.)

Wool Prices Some lowering of prices was shown at the recent wool auctions in Tasmania, and it is a matter of conjecture in the trade whether a similar trend will be shown at the coming sales in London. Such a result would not come altogether as a surprise, although strong interests are evidently concerned in upholding prices. Larger imports of wools have lately been coming into this country, but Americans were not among the active bidders at recent foreign auctions. Trading in wool has been rather light. (Press, Jan. 11.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Jan. 13: Round White potatoes from New York sold at $1.35 to $1.50 sacked per 100 pounds in the East; $1 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage $23 to $30 bulk per ton in eastern cities; $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. Yellow onions from New York $3 to $3.25 per 100 pounds sack in eastern markets; $2.75 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester. California Golden Hearts ranged $6 to $8 per crate. Best New York Baldwin apples brought $6.50 to $7 per barrel in New York. Virginia and West Virginia Yorks $5 to $5.50.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.25 for the top, bulk of sales $10.20 to $11; medium and good beef steers $9.25 to $13.25; butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $10.75; feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.75 to $12.50; fat lambs $15.75 to $18.75; feeding lambs $14.75 to $17.25; yearlings $13.25 to $16.75 and fat ewes $7 to $11.

Grain prices quoted January 13: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.79 to $2.15; No.2 red winter Chicago $1.99 to $2.00 1/2; Kansas City $1.99 to $2. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.86 1/2; Kansas City $1.76 to $1.94. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.23 3/4 to $1.24 1/2; Minneapolis $1.24 1/2 to $1.27 1/2. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.21 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 58 1/4 to 59 1/2¢; Minneapolis 55 1/8 to 55 3/8¢; Kansas City 60 1/2¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot market down 3 points, closing at 23.81¢ per lb. New York January future contracts down 3 points, closing at 23.78¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Jan. 13,	Jan. 12,	Jan. 12, 1924
	20 Industrials	123.56	123.21	97.25
	20 R.R. stocks	100.53	100.47	82.63

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 14.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVI, no.12 Section 1 January 15, 1925

COMMISSION'S REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

Extension of credits through the Federal Farm Loan Board, a reduction of freight rates on the raw products of agriculture and readjustment of the tariff are essential to a rehabilitation of the American livestock industry, according to a report submitted to President Coolidge by the Agricultural Conference through its Chairman, former Governor Robert D. Carey of Wyoming. Another step that should be taken to restore prosperity to livestock raisers, the conference reported, is abandonment by the Government of allowing free and unrestricted grazing on the public domain. The substitution of a system of grazing under lease, at fees to be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior, it is suggested, would tend to limit production. Stressing the point that the livestock raisers must do something on their own account to improve their economic condition, the conference states that the cattlemen and the agencies through which they are financed should realize that in addition to those relating to finance, transportation costs and the tariff, "adjustments with a view to improving methods of production and management are also necessary to bring about a satisfactory stabilization of the cattle industry."

The conference report relative to livestock will be transmitted to Congress later in the week. It will be accompanied by a letter from the President, who will ask for its immediate consideration. (Press, Jan. 15.)

UNDERWOOD SHOALS BILL PASSES SENATE

The Underwood bill, which would give to President Coolidge authority to lease the Government properties at Muscle Shoals for the manufacture of nitrate and the production of electric power, was finally adopted in the Senate yesterday by a vote of 50 to 30. This result was reached after ten Senators had changed their vote overnight. The bill now goes to conference. (Press, Jan. 15.)

PARIS FINANCIAL COMPACT SIGNED

A dispatch from Paris to the press to-day says: "Eleven powers participating in the Paris conference of allied finance ministers January 14 signed the protocol for distribution of the Dawes plan annuities in which the United States shared. The most notable achievements of the conference were: First, the determining of the distribution of the Dawes annuities between the allies and their associates; second, the obtaining of the United States as a partner with the allies in the collection of payments from Germany under the Dawes scheme, and third, the liquidating of the Ruhr occupational account....The agreement before the conference provided that the amount of war damage which should go to America should not exceed $350,000,000. James A. Logan,jr., of the American delegation, succeeded in having this clause stricken from the protocol. As the revised text stands, the United States will receive its 2 1/4 per cent of the annuities until its entire claims are paid...."

BRANCH BANKING BILL PASSED

The House yesterday passed the McFadden bill which would revise the national banking laws. As sent to the Senate, the measure carried the Hull amendments dealing with branch banking, all of which were accepted by Chairman McFadden of the banking committee, author of the bill. (Press, Jan. 15.)

Section 2

Apiculture in Canada

Agricultural & Industrial Progress in Canada for January says: "Indications are continually being given of Canada's rapid rise in the world of apiculture. Increased interest, fostered by Government encouragement, is being given to beekeeping and honey production by farmers in all provinces, and not only is present production going a long way towards meeting domestic demand, but an export trade is being developed at a remarkable rate. It came as a good deal of a surprise to economists when the Dominion Apiarist made the statement that Canada would have 6,000,000 pounds of honey available for export in the year 1924, but trade figures available at the time of writing bear this out. Every province of Canada is now devoting considerable attention to the matter of honey production, and this is becoming more pronounced each year."

Canadian-Australian Treaty

The Grain Growers' Guide (Winnipeg) for January 7 says: "In the course of a press interview in Winnipeg, last week, J.E.Thurlowe, of Brisbane, Australia, a former member of the Queensland legislature, stated that while he approved generally of the treaty of reciprocity between Canada and Australia, he had some doubts about the special treatment for Australian raisins and currants given by Canada. He is reported as saying: 'The preference for instance on raisins will probably put the price up for the Canadian consumer. It certainly will not stop the Californian raisin from coming in as the latter is so popular over here and arrives in such good condition. It no doubt will stimulate the export of raisins from Australia to Canada, but it remains to be seen whether this market will take to the Australian raisin as it has done to the Californian. I hope it will.' No objection can be raised to the Canadian consumer having the opportunity to make a choice--as a matter of taste--between Californian and Australian raisins; the satisfaction of the consumer is the end of all production, and if the Canadian consumer prefers the Australian product, so much the better for the Australian producer. Mr. Thurlowe states the fundamental objection to the preference in his first sentence--it will 'put the price up for the Canadian consumer.' He is also correct when he says that it will not stop the Californian raisin from coming in, because this raisin is packed in an attractive form, and it comes on the market at the right time for the Canadian consumer. The Australian raisin is not packed as the Californian product, and it comes on the market when the demand is at a minimum, and will, therefore, have to be stored. All this simply means that the Canadian consumer will pay an increased price for raisins whether he buys the Californian or the Australian product, for the latter can not be sold at a price below the Californian and the Californian producer is certainly not going to pay taxes into the Canadian treasury, by paying the duty."

Cooperatives

"Grower-Group Control" is the title of an extensive article by Matthew Tobriner in The University Journal of Business (University of Chicago) for December. He says in part: "Most marketing authorities in the United States favor the federated rather than the centralized type of cooperative association. They favor an organization composed of local groups of farmers rather than one composed of farmers directly. When small, local associations are formed by many rural communities, the farmers are given the means for determining their own policies. In local associations they can establish their own grades, standards,

and packing rules. But in centralized associations there are no local groups. In this type of association, the central agency determines all important matters, and the farmers do not possess an iota of control. It is because growers do not determine the policies of the centralized association, and because growers do determine the policies of the federated, that most marketing authorities favor the federated type of association. Grower-group control at any rate is sound in theory. Content on the part of the growers is said to come only with control by the growers, and control is said to be feasible only in local groups; so the federated association based upon farmer-run local associations is approved. But the centralized associations also have their side of the story. In brief, their argument is this: control by the farmers brings not content but discontent; it has in the past, in fact, wrecked many associations. Content on the part of the growers can be attained by better and safer means than control by the growers. Hence, the theoretically ideal grower-control is unworkable in practice."

Cotton Seat Demand

The New York Cotton Exchange membership of Thomas F. Russell was sold yesterday to Joseph C. Monier of R. H. Hopper & Co. for $32,000, an advance of $2,000 over the last reported sale and within $1,000 of the record price established in January last year. The demand for cotton exchange seats, according to representatives of the Cotton Exchange, is unusual, despite the fact that this is the dull season in the cotton market. Four new members were admitted last week, and seven applications for membership were posted yesterday. The demand for seats is not confined to New York City, nor any one section of the country. One of the applicants now posted is a spot cotton man in Texas, another an operator in Liverpool, and a third is a Havre importer. The others are located in New Orleans and New York. (Press, Jan. 14.)

Farmers and The Government

An editorial in The New York Times of January 14 says: "Senator Borah calls for the redemption of pre-election pledges of the politicians to the farmers. But the election rejected pretty much everything that the politicians proposed for the relief of anybody. Since the election the farmers have started a propaganda of their own. At the opening of the new year President Coolidge specifically condemned the much-buffeted McNary-Haugen bill, among several pending, and urged cooperation as the farmers' most promising help. But he was wise and candid enough to warn the farmers that cooperation would not help them unless they helped themselves. The same note was struck when the National Council of the Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations met at Washington. The vice president said that the cooperatives wanted chiefly to be let alone. 'Government paternalism or relief by appropriation is entirely out of order. All that the farmers ask of Congress is....willingness to allow us to settle our own problems.' It may be hoped that the farmers now will abandon their crusade against the commodity exchanges. It was based on the belief that speculation depressed the price of their products. Prices now are high, but from no conspiracy for the farmers' benefit. Senator Borah is probably right in thinking that prices will fall again. But cooperation may break that fall to an unsuspected degree. One-quarter of all farm products are marketed through cooperative associations. Senator Borah said that farmers get only $7,500,000,000 of the $22,500,000,000 that consumers pay. The difference is an invitation to the farmers to help themselves by service to the consumer. The farmers reject the 'Government's directing hand' which the Senator would extend. The Government can help the farmers more by reduction of taxatior than in any other way."

Federal Subsidies

An editorial in The Washington Post of January 14 says: "President Coolidge has strongly dwelt upon the ominous fact, frequently discussed in these columns, that while the Federal Government is steadily and rapidly reducing the national debt, most of the States and municipalities are at about an equal if not a greater rate increasing theirs, so that the actual gross indebtedness of the country is not decreasing but is probably increasing. If to this we add the notorious fact that the tax rates of States and cities are also rising, 'a condition, not a theory, confronts us,' which may well cause public economists and financiers grave concern. For a State to increase its indebtedness in order to reduce or at least to avoid increasing its taxes may in some cases be sound practice. For it to increase its taxes in order to pay as it goes and avoid increasing its debt, is generally sound. But for it to increase its taxes and at the same time to run deeper and deeper into debt is ruinous. It is a suggestive fact, which the President has also emphasized, that one potent incentive to such State and municipal extravagance seems to lie in the subsidies or other aids which the Federal Government grants. The President points out that the present estimates provide for such grants of more than $109,000,000, given to the States by congressional enactment. Now if that were to lessen by that amount the revenue to be raised by taxation, or the indebtedness to be incurred by the States, it might be commendable, though there are obvious grounds of objection to the system, and dangers of abuse. But it does not do that. On the contrary, it very generally leads to greater expenditures, justly to be regarded as extravagances, and a consequent increase instead of reduction of the States' own taxes and debts. Often, indeed, this latter is almost inevitable. A Federal grant is given on the condition that the State itself appropriates an equal amount. That seems a fair and prudent system, and would be if it were properly applied. But too often State legislators abuse it by increasing extravagantly their own appropriations, on the ground that the more they thus raise the more they will get from Washington....The whole system of Federal subsidies is so susceptible of abuses as to demand the most rigidly scrupulous administration, if it is not to be abolished. Its major evils are threefold. One is the temptation to extravagance, which we have already explained. Another is the promotion of a sort of mendicancy, with States and municipalities depending upon the Federal Government to do for them that which they could and should do for themselves. And the third is the danger of subjection of the States to Federal rule and control in matters which the States should keep under their own exclusive jurisdiction; since Washington usually insists that the money it grants shall be expended under its own very strict supervision and direction. The President has done well, for the sake of the States and municipalities themselves, to call attention to this matter in a direct and incisive manner; and the States will do well, for themselves, if they take his words to heart."

Freight Rates in Canada

The Grain Growers' Guide for January 7 says: "The story of freight rate discrimination practiced upon the farmers in the lower Fraser Valley district of British Columbia, as told in last week's Guide, by Charles E. Hope, will find few parallels in the economic development of Canada. The freight rate on grain and grain products from Calgary or Edmonton to Vancouver, when being exported, is 22 1/2 cents per hundred pounds, and is unquestionably a profitable rate for the railways. When, however, this same farm produce is shipped from Calgary or Edmonton to

Vancouver, to be used by the dairy and poultry farmers in the farming district adjacent to Vancouver, the railways charge 41 1/2 cents per hundred pounds, an extra discriminatory charge of 19 cents per hundred. Mr. Hope works this out to show that it comes to about 13 cents per bushel, or $3.80 per ton, making a total extra tax upon the Fraser Valley farmers (about 6,000 in number) of $300,000 per year. He quotes one witness before the Railway Commission, a large poultry farmer, who declared that this freight rate discrimination cost him $600 per year. Since 1908 this discrimination has been practiced on the Fraser Valley farmers, and the total toll, or, as Mr. Hope puts it, the total 'fine' levied upon the Fraser Valley farmers in this period has been approximately $4,000,000. Here is a small farming community operating on land which is very expensive to clear and cultivate, and the extra discriminatory charge levied by the railway companies means the difference between profit and loss to many of these people. The fact that a ship load of corn was recently brought to Vancouver from the Argentine, at a saving of about $10 per ton, is rather an alarming statement of fact."

Reclamation Views Sought — Secretary Work January 13 invited the Governors of Western States to appoint representatives on committees to survey and reappraise Federal reclamation projects with a view to submitting a report to Congress. To facilitate the investigation, which was authorized in the recent reclamation legislation, two committees will conduct the work, one headed by ex-Governor Campbell of Arizona and the other by Dr. John A. Widtsoe of Utah. Invitations were sent to the executives of the States of New Mexico Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Nebraska and South Dakota. (Press, Jan. 14.)

Rubber Imports — Crude rubber for four consecutive quarters has maintained a place as the country's fourth greatest import, it is disclosed in an analysis of foreign trade made by the foreign commerce department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. During the first nine months of 1924 crude rubber imports totalled 514,000,000 pounds, with a value of $119,000,000, a falling off, however, from the record imports of the same period in 1923 when 551,000,000, valued at $148,000,000 came in. "Imports from both the British East Indies and England were below the 1923 figure", says the analysis, "while those from the Dutch East Indies showed an increase. These three countries supplies us with 94% of our crude rubber during 1924. Brazil supplied us with less than 4% of the total. We also imported 12,000,000 pounds of jelutong or pontianack, valued at $1,075,000; 583,000 pounds of balata, valued at $313,000; 2,671,000 pounds of gutta-percha, valued at $400,000; and 2,200,000 pounds of guayule, valued at $391,000."

Rumania Bans Wheat Exports — A Bucharest dispatch to the press of January 14 states that the exportation of wheat has been prohibited by the Government from January 15. The decree authorizes the requisitioning of internal supplies for the army and civil needs at a price approximateing $45 a metric ton. It is believed that adequate supplies are available to carry the country along until the next harvest. It is said the farmers are reluctant to sell wheat. Before the war old Rumania exported around 1,000,000 tons of wheat annually.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 14: New York sacked Round White potatoes $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $1 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida Wakefield cabbage $2.25 to $2.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in the East. New York yellow onions, $2.75 to $3.40 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $2.90 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples $5.50 to $6.25 per barrel. New York Golden Self-blanching celery $3 to $4 per 2/3 crate.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.25 for the top and $10.25 to $11.05 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.90 to $13; butcher cows and heifers $3.50 to $11; feeder steers $4.75 to $7.65; light and medium weight veal calves $9.25 to $13; fat lambs $16.25 to $19.25 and feeding lambs $14.75 to $17.25.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 39¢; Philadelphia 40 1/2¢; Boston 40¢.

Grain prices quoted January 14: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.77 to $2.14. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.97 to $2.00 1/2; Kansas City $1.98. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.84; Kansas City $1.75 to $1.92. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.20. No.2 yellow corn Minneapolis $1.26 to $1.29; Kansas City $1.23. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.24 1/2. No.4 white corn Chicago $1.20 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 58 to 59¢; Minneapolis 54 5/8 to 55 1/8¢; Kansas City 62¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 16 points, closing at 23.65¢ per lb. New York January future contracts declined 14 points, closing at 23.64¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 14,	Jan. 13,	Jan. 14, 1924
20 Industrials	122.97	123.56	95.68
20 R.R.stocks	99.59	100.53	81.75

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 15.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XVI, no. 13 Section 1 January 16, 1925

EXPORT BOARD ASKED FOR FARMERS — A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that creation of a farmers' export corporation of fifteen men with power to divert a surplus above domestic needs to the world market, with adequate power to collect, from each unit of each commodity, amounts sufficient to prevent impairment of working capital, and a protective tariff have been recommended by the American Council of Agriculture to President Coolidge's agricultural conference. The suggested legislation outlined by C. M. Peek, of Moline, Ill., president of the council, provided that the incorporators be the Secretaries of the Treasury, Agriculture and Commerce and twelve individuals appointed by the President, one from each of the Federal land bank districts, from nominations made in the district by bona fide farm organizations. Broad grant of general and special powers to the corporation was recommended. It would buy and sell farm commodities, operate storage facilities, and have authority to operate with a premium or bounty on exports if desired. Provision would be made for the collection of equalization fees and the apportionment of expenses and losses in export sales out of the equalization fees. The council recommended that legislation providing for the Farmers' Export Corporation should include power of restriction of imports by permission of the President, utilization of services of Government agencies in collection of equalization fees, penalty clauses and a declaration of separability of sections of the bill in the event any one should be found unconstitutional.

RIVERS AND HARBORS BILL PASSES HOUSE — By a standing vote of 179 to 6 the House yesterday passed the $39,000,000 rivers and harbors bill. The measure as sent to the Senate would authorize this expenditure for improvement on 35 projects. (Press, Jan. 16.)

DISTRIBUTION CONFERENCE — Machinery for a national investigation of the processes of merchandising and distribution was set up at the final session of the National Distribution conference yesterday, meeting under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Scope of inquiries to be carried on by six permanent committees, each covering a different phase of the general problem, was outlined by the conference, and five permanent chairmen were appointed to take charge of the work. Owen D. Young is under consideration for the chairmanship on business statistics. The chairmen of the other five committees are A. Lincoln Filene, of William Filene Sons Company, Boston, trade relations; Stanley Resor, president of the J. Walter Thompson Company, Chicago, market analysis; Robert Ellis, Hessig-Ellis Drug Company, Memphis, business methods; Dr. Melvin T. Copeland, director of the Bureau of Business Research, Harvard University, distribution methods; Sidney Anderson, former chairman of the joint commission on agricultural inquiry, public relation to distribution. (Press, Jan. 16.)

TARIFF COMMISSION OFFICERS — Thomas O. Marvin of Massachusetts and William S. Culbertson of Kansas have been re-designated chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the Tariff Commission by President Coolidge for one year. (Press, Jan. 15.)

Section 2

Borah On Agriculture

The Journal of Commerce for January 14 says: "Sometimes Senator Borah appears to be one of our greatest political optimists, as in those moments when he urges the calling of an international conference to redress the economic and social evils of the world. Again he assumes the role of a prophetic pessimist, but not so illogically after all. The facts are on Senator Borah's side certainly when he says that the farmer needs just as much (or just as little?) assistance now as he did before the election. If the farmer was suffering unduly from heavy tax burdens, poor marketing systems and distributive extortion, then he is as much a victim of this same injustice and economic maladjustment now as he was in those pre-election days. Senator Borah rightly insists, then, that the economic gains which have recently come to the farmers of this country are fortuitous and essentially ephemeral. He attributes the increased demand for American farm products to the Dawes plan and to crop shortages. The success of the Dawes plan is, he holds, by no means a foregone conclusion, and in that view he is supported by thoughtful European opinion. Crop shortages, it goes without saying, offer no permanent solution of agricultural ills, and regarded in any large-minded way are in any case essentially calamitous.....It remains to be seen, however, whether he is able to find the legislative remedies for the economic woes which he so acutely diagnoses."

Cotton

The Florida Times-Union for January 13 says: "The president of the New York Cotton Exchange has been quoted as saying that there is nothing in the outlook and results of last year's cotton crop to cause cotton planters to either relax their vigilance and efforts to exterminate the boll weevil or to reduce their acreage this coming spring. The fairly good crop produced in 1924 moderately well met the demands made for the staple, but left little over for another year, and there is good reason to believe that the demand in 1925 will be just as great or greater. Cotton was king again in the South last year, and the planters generally made some money. It was a successful year in most sections of the cotton belt, although there was no assurance that the boll weevil had been exterminated or that prices would stay up at a point where money could be made cultivating the staple. The disastrous results of a few years previous had turned many planters away from cotton, and the crop was not as heavy as had been marketed say ten years ago. But the revival of interest through at least a partial success will mean more attention to the crop this year....The statement from the head of the New York Cotton Exchange regarding the possible market of 1925 will be encouraging to planters. Raising cotton is only one part of the process of making money in this very important industry. Being able to market it at a fair price is the next thing after getting it picked and ginned and baled. The supply now on hand is declared to be scarcely more than will be needed for usual demands before the new crop comes in. This means that at least as much as was raised in 1924 or more will be asked for by the spinners and paid for at a fair rate. There has been no diminution in the use of cotton goods. Foreign fields are not yet producing cotton in quantity to seriously affect local markets, and the export trade already secured. This means that America is expected to supply the bulk of the cotton used this year and next, at least."

Farm Life

The Sunday Press Herald (Portland,Me.,) for January 11 says: "The program for the annual Farmers' Week at a western agricultural college will this year lay special stress upon the farmer and his family even more than on the farm. This is as it should be, for not only is the farmer of greater importance to the Nation than his farm, but also the kind of a farmer a man may be determines very largely the kind of a farm he will have. It is so easy for farms to advance or go back in fertility and productiveness, that even within a few years a piece of farm property will reflect the character of its management. Too often in the past extension forces have looked on the farmer merely as a producer. Now the tendency is growing to regard him more as an all-round business man, with problems of distribution and disposition of his products just as real and just as pressing as those of production. And even more than this, the farmer and his family are coming to be regarded as a group of human beings, differing but very little from an equal number of city folks. With such an understanding of the farm situation as a basis, it is possible to make progress on the farm problem as a whole. Without such an understanding progress is well nigh impossible."

Foreign Fruit Market

An editorial in The Florida Times-Union for January 13 says: "As an index to growing prosperity, or,at least, recovery from the stringency that has existed since the World War, it is told that Europe is again indulging in fruit as a food, and not only as a luxury.....With the steadily increasing capacity of cold-storage ships and the time reduced between this and other countries across the Atlantic there should be greater efforts made to develop the foreign fruit trade. Florida should certainly not give up the effort made to introduce grapefruit in English markets, even though there have been some cargoes delayed and possibly bringing only loss to the shippers. If the demand can be established there will be ways of direct shipment obtained that would pay well."

Freight Rates On Livestock

Freight charges represent only 5 3/5 cents out of each dollar the purchaser pays for livestock, while the producer or seller at point of shipments realizes net proceeds of 91 2/5 cents, other costs of distribution being 3 cents, according to a study just made by the Bureau of Railway Economics. The wide spread in the prices received in the markets for livestock of good quality and that of poorer grade is clearly brought out in the study, which shows that this spread accounts for the variations in the percentage of the price absorbed in freight charges. It appears that the better the grade sold the greater the proportion of the dollar that went to the purchaser, and the smaller the proportion that was absorbed in freight charges. This study, which relates entirely to livestock, was based on sales of more than 6,000 carloads of cattle, calves, hogs and sheep made at ten principal markets in the United States in the year ended October 6, 1924. (Press, Jan.15.)

Hoover on Waste

The first step toward investigation of costs and methods of distributing goods in industry was taken January 14 at Washington by nearly 200 business representatives, who assembled at the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. "I believe that we can reduce the margin between our farming and manufacturing producers on one side and our consumers on the other, and I believe it can be done without reduction of wages or legitimate profits," Mr. Hoover said in an address. "I believe that in doing so we can make the greatest contribution to the improvement of the position of our farmers and that we can make a contribution to the

lowered cost of living. These possibilities lie in the elimination of waste. The area of undue profits in the margin has been pretty well eliminated in the last two years, the processes of competition having attended to this job." (Press, Jan. 15.)

Rice Cultivation — An Orange, Tex., dispatch to the press of January 15 states that an increase of 5,000 acres to be cultivated in rice in this country is predicted there as a result of good prices received for the product the last season, and announcement that an irrigation system that has been operated in previous years will be reclaimed.

Sugar Merger Abandoned — A New York dispatch to the press of January 15 states that the American Sugar Refining Company announced January 14 the abandonment of its plan to acquire the National Sugar Refining Company, as a result of the refusal of the Department of Justice to approve the transactions.

Wheat Situation — John F. Fennelly, formerly of Hall-Baker Grain Co., Kansas City, in a lengthy review of the situation, in Commerce and Finance for January 14, says: "Is the wheat problem solved? Can it safely be stated that the western grain grower is once more securely on his feet after four long years of suffering and distress, and that he will cease to bother us with his cries for help? Can we dismiss from our minds as a thing of the past all radical agitation to legislate unsoundly on behalf of the farmer? In other words, is it correct to assume that the present prosperity of the wheat farmer is permanent, likely to continue for several years?....The average newspaper writer seems to think that by a glib use of the phrase, 'The Law of Demand and Supply,' he is displaying a profound knowledge of economic theory. Of course, all price phenomena are subject to the interaction of demand and supply, but this is nothing more than a statement of the merest truism of economics. The problem we must set ourselves is rather to ascertain the more fundamental factors behind the recent startling advance in wheat values. Can we find anything in the tremendous increase in the international demand for wheat to satisfy us of its permanency? Let us examine the facts in the case. We can dismiss as too absurd for discussion the charges that the price advance was caused by the manipulation of business interests for political purposes. When we look at the market situation two facts of great significance are at once apparent. The first is the shortage of over 200,000,000 bushels in the European wheat crop of 1924, and the second is the unusual shortage in the Canadian crop. The latest trustworthy report places the total Canadian wheat yield for 1924 at 271,622,000 bushels, over 150,000,000 short of the record crop of 1923, and over 50,000,000 less than the Canadian average for the past five years. We need go no further than this in our search for fundamental factors, and our only remaining problem is to estimate their significance in connection with the permanent prosperity of American agriculture....The fundamental handicap of the farmer in a modern dynamic society lies in his incapacity to adapt himself to sudden economic changes. Manufacturing industry is able to adjust itself to sudden changes with a minimum of loss and discomfort, but the farmer can only accomplish this readjustment through prolonged suffering and bankruptcy. The slow and painful efforts of our farmers to meet the post-war situation can be seen by a glance at the gradual reduction of the American wheat acreage during the past few

years ...In spite of the present adverse conditions of exchange Europe has continued to take our large surplus every year because of her inability to fill all her requirements elsewhere. The European demand for wheat is extremely inelastic; that is to say, her consumption of bread will vary little with wide changes in the price of wheat. She will give up the purchase of almost everything else before cutting down on her consumption of bread. She has thus continued to need a part of our surplus wheat under the most adverse conditions because she has been unable to satisfy her demand elsewhere. Until this year, however, it was steadily becoming more difficult to market American wheat in Europe; we were being gradually superseded by the grain growers of Canada and the Argentine, enabling Europe practically to dictate the price at which she would take our surplus. It is necessary to bear in mind that this inelasticity of demand works both ways... We must face the fact squarely that, with the present tariff barrier and the existing dislocation of international exchanges, this country must cease to figure as an exporter of wheat to Europe, except under conditions of world shortage as exist at the present moment...At this time of prosperity the American wheat farmer should be warned strenously against a recurrence of the tragedy of 1921. He should realize that the bumper crop of 1924 would have meant only further disaster if he had not been blessed by an unexpected shortage in other countries. With normal world crops in the future an American crop of similar size must inevitably spell disaster. We can not count on world shortages as a permanent factor, and without them, profitable wheat farming in the United States can only come by restricting wheat production to our domestic requirements. When this is accomplished, the wheat tariff will really protect and American wheat farming will be on a sound and permanent basis...."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

In an editorial entitled "This Year's Plans," The Country Gentleman for January 17 says:"..'Planning This Year's Crops,' the first article in this issue, was prepared at the suggestion of The Country Gentleman by Howard R. Tolley and his associates in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture to guide farmers in determining their intentions to plant. It is almost the first effort of the Department to inject into its great work for growers the business principle of looking ahead. Farmers in common with other business men should study the factors that enter into supply and demand....Farmers need just as broad information as that on which to plan. The wheat grower must consider the probable carry-over from last year's crop. He must study the probable production of other wheat countries--Argentina, Canada, Australia, Russia. He must figure on the production of other cereals--the substitutes for wheat. He must bear in mind industrial conditions among his customers all over the world. He needs to know how the currencies of the various nations rate in exchange, for upon this depends the ability of his customers to buy bread. The things the wheat farmer must study if he is to arrive at an intelligent intention to plant are duplicated in the cases of cotton, of hogs, of beef, of fruits, of practically every farm product. In short, the farmer must keep his eyes on the map of the world and note what is going on that affects his particular line of production. This is a new idea in agriculture; in the past farmers have thought it enough to watch their individual farms. But it is not enough. The Department of Agriculture's intentions-to-plant reports

were a beginning in the right direction. Mr. Tolley's article will make this year's intentions more intelligent; and, as this application of business principles goes on, farmers individually will awake to the need of studying farming in the same way as business men study their problems. Farming is business. It is subject to exactly the same forces as any other industry. And the problems of farming must be met by business methods--not by buncombe, oratory or legislation."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 15: Chicago hog prices closed at $10.90 for the top and $10 to $10.85 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.85 to $13; butcher cows and heifers steady $3.50 to $11; feeder steers $4.75 to $7.65; light and medium weight veal calves $9.25 to $13; fat lambs $16 to $19.25; feeding lambs $14.75 to $17.25; yearlings $13.75 to $17.25 and fat ewes $7 to $11.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; 98¢ to $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage down in leading eastern markets to $25 to $30 bulk per ton; steady at $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow onions slightly weaker in eastern markets at $2.75 to $3.40 sacked per 100 pounds; firm at $3 f.o.b. Rochester. Eastern York Imperials $5 to $6 per barrel. Stayman Winesaps generally $6 to $7.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 39 1/2¢; Philadelphia 41¢; Chicago 38 1/4¢; Boston 40¢.

Grain prices quoted January 15: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.77 to $2.13. No.2 red winter St. Louis $2.04 to $2.07; Kansas City $2.04. No.3 red winter Chicago $1.95 to $1.96. No.2 hard winter St. Louis $1.85 1/2; Kansas City $1.77 to $1.96. No.4 hard winter Chicago $1.80. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.20 to $1.21 1/2. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.29; Kansas City $1.25. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.27; Minneapolis $1.27 to $1.29; St. Louis $1.26 1/2 to $1.27 1/2. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.25. No.3 white oats Chicago 58 1/4 to 59¢; Minneapolis 54 3/4 to 55¢; St. Louis 60 to 61¢; Kansas City 61¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 2 points, closing at 23.67¢ per lb. New York January future contracts up 2 points, closing at 23.66¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 15,	Jan. 14,	Jan. 15, 1924
20 Industrials	121.33	122.97	96.05
20 R.R. stocks	98.36	99.59	79.98

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 16.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVI, no.14 Section 1 January 17, 1925

MR. HOOVER AND AGRICULTURE The press to-day states that Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, announced yesterday that he had declined an offer by President Coolidge to become Secretary of Agriculture when Secretary Gore retires March 4 to become Governor of West Virginia. Mr. Hoover explained that he had declined the President's offer for the reason that he could best help improve the farmer's condition by remaining in his present office, with its opportunity to advance measures for reduction of distribution costs generally and to bring about stability in the general commercial and industrial situation at home and abroad.

The New York Times to-day says: "Conferences between Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Hoover have resulted in an understanding that when the new Secretary of Agriculture is appointed, there will be close cooperation between the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce. In the President's opinion, the chief problem of agriculture now is not production but marketing and distribution, which touches the activities of the Department of Commerce and has been made a special feature of Secretary Hoover's administration. The President will consult with Mr. Hoover in seeking a Secretary of Agriculture."

The statement issued yesterday by Secretary Hoover follows: "In view of the press reports, it seems to me desirable to state that the President did do me the honor to suggest that I consider transfer to the post of Secretary of Agriculture. He expressed his belief that the present need of that department was an administration in which emphasis should be given to the solution of the farmers' marketing problems. To this I fully agree. Nevertheless I felt in the future, as in the past, the greatest contribution that I could make to the improvement of the farmers' position lay in the advancement of measures that make for reduction of costs in our whole distribution system and in helping to bring about improvements and stability in the general industrial and commercial situation both at home and abroad. The farmers' problem is a problem of the Nation as a whole....."

LIVESTOCK MEN'S MEETING An Albuquerque, N.Mex., dispatch to the press to-day says: "The future usefulness of the intermediate credit system to the livestock industry 'must not be imperiled by unsound business methods or the making of inadequately secured loans,' A. C. Williams, member of the Federal Farm Loan Board, Washington, told the American National Livestock Association January 16. He explained the intermediate credits act, designed to aid stockmen and farmers. Dwight B. Heard, of Phoenix, Ariz., predicted that with better marketing plans, improvement in transportation rates and better methods of finance, a big improvement in the industry would come in the immediate future."

The association adopted a resolution "earnestly urging Congress before it adjourns to fix a tariff of 6 cents per pound on green hides and 15 cents per pound on dry hides." The convention also urged the President of the United States to exercise his executive authority to declare an addition of 50 per cent to the present import tariff on canned meat and tallow. The convention went on redord as "demanding a reduction of livestock rates in the West to afford some measure of relief to this overburdened industry."

Section 2

Agriculture and Transportation

The Journal of Commerce for January 16 says: "From all appearances the President's agricultural commission is proceeding upon the explicit premise that the farmer must be resuscitated at the expense of the transportation industry. It is difficult to draw any other conclusion from the obiter dictum on the subject submitted recently to the President as a part of a preliminary report. Asserting that it would at a later date make specific recommendations in connection with the matter the commission expressed a desire at this time to emphasize its belief that 'the welfare of agriculture demands an early and thorough revision of the freight rate structure.' This line of thought on the part of the commission gains immensely in importance by reason of the fact that the commission has the approval in advance of President Coolidge for whatever steps it advocates for the 'relief' of the farmer. It is therefore none too early to be giving most careful attention and full publicity to the views held and expressed, even though they may yet be in nebulous form so far as specific recommendations are concerned. In connection with this determination to attack the existing freight rate structure for the benefit of the farmer it ought again to be pointed out to the rank and file of the Nation that the public in general has nothing whatever to gain by robbing Peter to pay Paul. Grant that the livestock industry is still for the most part in a situation that is none too satisfactory. The state of affairs in that branch of business is certainly far from healthy. Assume, that agriculture in its other divisions is, despite recent improvement, far from the position of soundness and prosperity that many over-optimistic souls suppose. There is a good deal to support such a conclusion. But what of the leading railroads which would be most severely affected by drastic reductions in freight rates upon agricultural products? Those who have given careful study to the earnings of the so-called granger lines and others which derive a large part of their revenue from transportation of farm and range know well enough that here, too, we have a problem of rehabilitation which in many of its aspects is fully as important and as difficult as that of the farmers. Not only is there nothing to be gained by robbing the transportation industry, particularly that part of the industry which is in special difficulty already, in order to aid agriculture, but the question is a pertinent one whether in the long run even the farmer himself would be benefited by the sort of policy the agricultural commission now plainly suggests. The farmer, it ought not to be necessary again to repeat, is peculiarly dependent for his prosperity upon adequate transportation service. If he or his self-distant friends insist upon starving the roads which serve him into a state of impotence there can be no doubt of the consequence to the agricultural industry. After a short period the farmer would find himself unable to get his produce to the markets of the world with anything like satisfactory promptness or even at greater cost than he now complains of. He would then be faced with the necessity of paying doubly for the respite he might gain from lower rates for relatively short periods of time."

Belgium's Cotton Needs

The present outlook in Belgium indicates a 20 per cent increase in the consumption of American cotton during 1925, according to cabled advices January 15. (Press, Jan. 16.)

Canned Vegetables Higher — A Wilmington, Del., dispatch to the press of January 16 states that the chief interest of the Tri-State Packers' convention at Wilmington, concluded January 15, was the probable price trend during the coming growing season. Averaging estimates and opinions of the majority of the 450 packers and distributers present, representing the leaders in the industry throughout Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey, it is indicated that the new pack will be from 5 to 10 per cent higher.

Federal Construction Legislation — The $150,000,000 bill to provide for the construction of new and the remodeling of old Federal buildings has the approval of President Coolidge, according to a letter January 14 from Secretary Mellon to Representative Elliott of Indiana, chairman of the House committee on public buildings and grounds. The appropriation would be spread over six years at the rate of $25,000,000 annually. President Coolidge also favors the Smoot bill, which authorizes $50,000,000 for public buildings at Washington, but the House committeemen say that the Elliott bill will take care of them. The Elliott bill authorizes the construction of projects all over the country already approved by the Treasury, Post Office and Justice Departments. (Press, Jan. 15.)

Cotton Ban in Russia — The press of January 16 states that with a view to prevent spread of cotton pests the Soviet Government has decided to prohibit the importation into Russia of cotton, cotton yarns, cotton plants and cotton packing materials from America and Egypt, unless each importation carries an official certificate stating that it is free from all cotton pests.

French Tariff — The French Commerce Ministry has suggested that it may be possible to extend the minimum tariff provisions to certain importations from the United States, according to cable advices from Paris January 16. It is probable, however, that no definite settlement will be reached until the passage of the 1925 budget, which may not come until February. (Press, Jan. 17.)

Prices — George E. Roberts, vice president of the National City Bank of New York, is the author of an article on "Automatic Prices," in The Country Gentleman for January 17. He says in part: "In the case of the principal staples under the present marketing system, prices usually represent a consensus of well informed opinion. How quickly the market responds to changed conditions has been seen in the past season. The idea of substituting for this system anything like an arbitrary control of markets by a small number of salaried representatives of the producers is chimerical. The markets of the world are too big to be controlled, and the problem of future prices is too intricate for the farmers to attempt the speculative game through salaried representatives. I repeat that this is not an argument against organized efforts for the promotion of orderly marketing. The fact that local cooperative elevator companies succeed does not prove that a vast cooperative organization could advantageously displace the free, broad markets afforded by the existing exchanges. In my opinion there is no substitute for the public auction system of fixing prices in the case of commodities for which there is a world-wide demand. The most effective system of orderly marketing is that of the farmer who has his own granaries or barns and is forehanded enough to hold his products until market conditions are favorable. It is true that years of surplus and low prices are always followed, sooner or later, by yarns of scarcity and high prices, and the individual farmer who can hold and wait will usually be paid for doing so. It is

a mistake, however, to argue from this that if all farmers acted together in withholding their products and waiting for higher prices, a like result would be realized. A mass movement may defeat an individual policy. This comes under the discussion of general price fixing. In short, in so far as cooperation may enlist the interest of producers in common efforts to place their products on the market in a more economical, orderly and attractive manner it will yield benefits. In so far as it means an attempt to do away with public markets, monopolize distribution and control prices in a monopolistic manner it will almost surely prove a costly failure. No small group of men is likely to manage such a gigantic enterprise successfully. Every period of low prices occasions a demand that prices be fixed by some authority so as to give a sure and fair return to producers. It has a plausible sound, but it is inherently fallacious, for when prices are low it is usually production that requires to be regulated, and the low prices are the only agency for doing it. A level of prices below the cost of production, or that is unremunerative to producers as compared with the general level of prices, signifies overproduction--a greater supply than the demand will take at a fair price. It shows the existence of what is called a buyers' market, which is a market in which more is offered than can be sold, giving buyers a chance to hold off and let sellers compete for the business. There is no remedy for low prices so long as that situation continues. If it is a temporary situation, speculators may support prices by taking the surplus to sell later, or producers may withhold a part of the supplies for a time, but if supplies continue to accumulate in excess of demands there is nothing to do but reduce production."

Silk Futures Plan

A New York dispatch to the press of January 16 states that the proposal to establish a silk exchange on the floor of the New York Cotton Exchange is taking more concrete form. It only remains for a committee of responsible representatives of the silk trade to determine some course of procedure, it is said, and it is possible that such a meeting will be called in the near future.

Sugar Output in Mexico

The total area in Mexico now under sugar cane cultivation is about 95,500 acres, its production being probably one of the oldest industries of the country. Its growth during the past few years, according to a report from Assistant Trade Commissioner H. Bentley MacKenzie, has been quite marked, and the 1923-24 production is estimated at 170,000 metric tons, compared with 100,000 metric tons in 1910. This increase over the 1910 level is the more significant, since the State of Morelos, once the largest sugar-producing State in Mexico, does not enter into present-day production at all. All of the twenty-six large mills in Morelos were totally destroyed during the revolution. About 80 per cent of the sugar produced in Mexico is sold within the country, the remainder being exported. There is also a considerable quantity of sugar imported because of the fact that, in some districts in the Northern Central States, it is cheaper to import sugar from the United States than to get it from mills in the southern or western parts of Mexico. Europe is the largest market for Mexican exports of sugar, these being usually shipped to dealers in the United Kingdom for transshipment to Continental ports. Because of the preferential tariff in favor of Cuban sugar in the United States and owing to the large supplies from other sources, Mexican sugar can be sold in the United States only when the market is high. The refined white sugar produced in Mexico, however, is of high quality and finds a ready sale on the New York market at any time that it is offered. (Press, Jan. 11.)

Wheat Control in Britain

The report that six individuals in Britain control the wheat trade was declared to be a myth by A.H.Hobley, one of the most important wheat operators and central wheat buyer for the Cooperative Wholesale Society of Britain. The declaration was made in the course of the January 14 proceedings of the Royal Food Commission. Answering questio from the chairman, Mr. Hobley said that Britain is looking more and mor to India for wheat supplies and that if prices in the United States remain high Australian supplies will be used more in the future. The prospects in Australia are improving, particularly since the Government has erected silos. In conclusion the witness said that he was not aware of any persons controlling wheat movements and that the price of bread in England left less of a margin of profit for all than before the war. (Press, Jan. 15.)

Wheat Price

The Wall Street Journal for January 16 says: "On January 14 wheat for May delivery at Chicago sold as high as $1.88 a bushel. One year ago it sold at $1.10 and last May at $1.02 7/8. A few months ago Mr. La Follette and his followers were telling us that Wall Street interests were behind the rise in wheat for political purposes. As the election is past and wheat steadily advancing it must be some other influences were and still are behind wheat. In this connection it may be noticed that Rumania, which in pre-war days exported about 50,000,000 bushels of wheat a year, now although its territory is enlarged, has found it necessary to embargo the export of wheat. Rumania has acted thus for the same reason which advanced wheat from $1.02 7/8 at Chicago to $1.88 in a little over eight months. The real reason is a disappointingly small harvest. Wheat did not rise because the world was kept in ignorance of the real situation. The world does not harvest all its wheat at one time. Every month of the year wheat is harvested somewhere; therefore, the story of the world supply has been gradually unfolding. It is not even yet complete. The southern hemisphere has not fully told its tale. But the story has developed enough to show a serious situatic Excluding the statistics of Russia and China from all calculations it will be found that the northern hemisphere has at least 340,000,000 bushels less wheat than a year ago. Taking the best estimates availabl for the southern hemisphere there will be a shortage of 50,000,000 bushels there also. In other words, the total wheat supply, exclusive of Russia and China, will approximate 3,098,000,000 bushels against 3,491,000,000 last year, making a shortage of 390,000,000 bushels. Europe, excluding Russia, has 693,000,000 bushels of rye without countir Denmark, which has not yet been reported. A preliminary estimate of that country was for 8,000,000 bushels. A total rye production for all the world will be about 780,000,000 bushels compared with 917,000,000 last year and 1,015,000,000 the five-year pre-war average. So far as statistics are available a shortage of 535,000,000 bushels of bread grain can be seen and the International Institute of Agriculture even estimates it at 573,000,000 bushels. While the visible supply has been large it has already reached its crest, and a steady decline is in prospect. These are the principal reasons for the great advance in wheat and are closely related to the embargo by Rumania. They do not mean that there will not be enough wheat to 'go around' because in time of shortage of any commodity prices will reach such a level as to check consumption. But they do mean an acute condition in the wheat supply before the next harvest."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 16: Chicago hog prices closed at $10.70 for the top and $9.70 to $10.50 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.65 to $13; butcher cows and heifers $3.50 to $11; feeder steers $4.75 to $7.65; light and medium weight veal calves $8.75 to $13.50; fat lambs $15.75 to $18.75; feeding lambs $15 to $17.50; yearlings $15.50 to $17; fat ewes $7 to $11.

New York sacked Round White potatoes closed at $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 lbs. in eastern cities; $1 to $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. Maine sacked Green Mountains mostly $1.40 to $1.60; bulk stock sold at 70¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. Delaware and Maryland yellow sweet potatoes weakened slightly to $2.10 to $2.75 per bu. hamper in the East. New York Danish type cabbage ranged lower in eastern markets at $20 to $30 bulk per ton; steady at $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. California and Arizona Iceberg Type lettuce firm at $3.50 to $4 per crate in consuming centers; $2 to $2.35 f.o.b. El Centro, Calif. New York Baldwin apples ranged $5.25 to $7 per bbl.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 39 1/2¢; Philadelphia 41¢; Boston 40 1/2¢; Chicago 39 1/4¢.

Closing prices on Wisconsin primary cheese markets January 15: Daisies 24 1/2¢; Longhorns 24 3/4¢; Square Prints 24 3/4¢.

Grain prices quoted January 16: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.78 to $2.15; No.2 red winter St. Louis $2.08 to $2.10; Kansas City $1.99 to $2.05. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.88; St. Louis $1.85; Kansas City $1.76 to $1.94; No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.21. No.2 yellow corn Kansas City $1.25 1/2. No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.24 to $1.24 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.27 1/4 to $1.28; Minneapolis $1.28 1/4 to $1.30 1/4; St. Louis $1.26 to $1.27 1/2. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.20 to $1.22; St. Louis $1.25 1/2 to $1.26. No.3 white oats Chicago 56 1/2 to 58¢; Minneapolis 54 1/4 to 54 1/2¢; St. Louis 60¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 12 points, closing at 23.55¢. New York January future contracts declined 13 points, closing at 23.53¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 16,	Jan. 15,	Jan. 16, 1924
20 Industrials	121.71	121.38	96.65
20 R.R. stocks	98.41	98.38	80.81

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 17.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVI, no.15 Section 1 January 19, 1925

DEFICIENCY MEASURE TO PRESIDENT

Congressional action was completed January 17 on the urgent deficiency bill, carrying among other items $150,000,000 for tax refunds. The House adopted the conference report already approved by the Senate. The measure, which now goes to the President, provides $50,000 each for the agricultural commission and the Federal oil conservation board; $40,000 for expenses of President Coolidge's inauguration March 4; $275,000 for a war on bubonic plague among rats at New Orleans and Oakland, Calif.; $3,501,200 for completing dam No. 2 at Muscle Shoals; $3,000,000 for purchasing capital stock of the inland waterways commission, and $15,000 for participation by the Government in the 150th anniversary celebration of the battles of Lexington and Concord. (Press, Jan. 18.)

LIVESTOCK LOANS

The Kendrick bill providing Government livestock loans to settlers on new reclamation projects was indorsed before the Senate irrigation committee January 17 by Commissioner Mead of the Reclamation Service. (Press, Jan. 18.)

NATIONAL FOREST LEGISLATION

Legislation authorizing the Government or private owners in exchanging lands in connection with the administration of the national forests to make reservations of timber, minerals and easements in passing title, was adopted in the House January 16. (Press, Jan. 17.)

POTASH LEGISLATION

The House January 16 passed a bill designed to harmonize the methods of disposing of potash deposits on Government land with the provisions of the oil and mineral leasing act of 1920. (Press, Jan. 17.)

POULTRY HANDLING

A Chicago dispatch to the press of January 18 states that bootlegging of poultry and a proposal to ask the Department of Agriculture to supervise the handling of poultry throughout the country were discussed January 17 by the National Poultry, Butter and Egg Association. "If illicit shipments could be stopped the embargoes might be lifted in two weeks," said Samuel Werner, of New York, referring to the fowl pest embargoes placed by some States.

ENGINEERING AND FORESTRY

To check further slaughter of the Nation's forests, and to shape in every State a constructive policy in harmony with Federal action, the American Engineering Council, at its closing session at Washington, January 17, announced it will enlist national and local engineering societies in a country-wide study of reforestation. Working with the United States Forest Service, the American Forestry Association, and with civic, industrial, farm and other bodies, including the State forestry services, the council will aid in enacting State laws to bring all forestry effort in this country into one coordinate scheme in furtherance of the Clarke-McNary act passed by Congress. (Press, Jan. 19.)

Section 2

Export Legislation

Farm and Ranch for January 17 says:".....Any effort on the part of Congress to take over the marketing of farm products, or to control in any way the marketing organizations to be instituted or planned to be instituted by the authority of law, should be resisted, not only by marketing organizations already functioning, but by every farmer in the land. Government-controlled agriculture means the employment of 50,000 additional officials and inspectors, all of whom will receive their pay and their expenses out of the products of the farm. One of the bills of this character, now under consideration, is known as the Capper-Williams bill. Other bills of more or less merit, mostly less, will be introduced, and the most of them will call for Government supervision of marketing. Some will be radical enough to propose the fixing of prices, all of which will take from the farmers of the country that independence of thought and action for which they have been noted in times past. The only bill offered thus far which will leave the business of producing and marketing in the farmers' hands after the Government has assisted in putting the organization in motion, is the Curtis-Aswell bill. This bill received favorable consideration from the Senate last year, but was not brought up in the House."

Farm Export Control

The Journal of Commerce for January 17 says: "The McNary-Haugen bill has been killed but the plan for Government control of farm exports survives. Its latest appearance is in the form of recommendations of the American Council of Agriculture to the President's agricultural conference. Legislation is asked for the establishment of a Government corporation to buy and sell farm products, operate storage facilities and pay premiums or bounties on exports. In short, all the earmarks of the discredited McNary-Haugen plan are visible. Has it ever occurred to the advocates of Government control and subsidization of exports that two can play at the game of control? It has been frequently pointed out that importing countries will not sit idly by while the United States is developing an organization of the sort here contemplated. Only a few days ago a well known British economist was telling the Royal Commission now investigating the high price of foodstuffs just what his country needed in the way of protection to agriculture. He urged bounties to stimulate home production, and he wanted a State-organized and State-controlled purchasing agency to buy needed agricultural supplies in bulk, especially from the dominions and British possessions. This proposition would make a powerful appeal to the members of the American Council of Agriculture if they happened to be British. It did not, however, attract the chairman of the British investigating committee. He wanted to know how the difficulties of counter-organization by exporting countries could be handled. 'Where, under your scheme, he asked the witness, 'have you given thought to the international complications which would inevitably arise the moment we began as a nation to attempt to purchase our food outside the British Isles?'...."

Federal Buildings

An editorial in The New York Times for January 17 says: "Early in December Senator Smoot urged a public building program in the District of Columbia on the ground of intolerable Government housing in Washington. No private concern or individual, he asserted, would take the risk which the Government of the United States is taking to-day in temporary buildings erected during the war, both as regards the lives of employees and the records of untold value, 'that all the money in the world could not

replace.' Moreover, the present policy is most uneconomical. The temporary wartime buildings which constitute a 'large part of the Government's office space' in Washington are of the most inflammable wooden construction. It is difficult to keep them warm in winter, and they are almost uninhabitable on the upper floors in the extremely hot days of summer. The files and records are in peril of destruction....More than half a million square feet of space in the various departments is occupied by dead or semi-active files and records that should be provided for in a separate building devoted solely to the care of the Government's archives. There would be a real economy in such provision. But even if the expense were immensely greater, the importance of the records would justify the necessary expenditure. The departments that are suffering most at present from unsatisfactory housing are the Department of Justice, whose main offices are in a rented building; the Department of Agriculture, which now occupies forty-six buildings of every conceivable type and scattered throughout various sections of the city, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, now occupying ten buildings, the major portion of the bureau's activities 'being carried on under most dangerous conditions as to fire hazard.' Reasons of business efficiency and economy can be urged for the program which Senator Smoot prepared for the District of Columbia. Appropriations for the purpose have been approved by the President and by the Secretary of the Treasury. Whether embodied in the general bill providing for the construction of buildings in the several States, Territories and dependencies of the United States, as well as in the District of Columbia, or separately considered, this program should be adopted. The estimate is that, with an expenditure of $50,000,000 over a period of ten years, every department can be comfortably housed and the records put in a place where they can be safely kept."

Foreign Trade A Paris dispatch to the press of January 17 says: "French goods to the value of $175,134,105 were sold in the United States in 1924, compared with $155,673,529 worth in 1923, American Consul General Skinner told the members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris at their annual meeting January 16. Individual French shipments to the United States in 1924 were 51,727 against 48,722 the previous year, Mr. Skinner remarked. While exports to the United States did not equal in value and volume France's exports to other countries, notably Great Britain, Mr. Skinner stated that the exports to America were chiefly of manufactured goods on which there was a large margin of profits. The Consul General intimated that if the retail purchases of American tourists were taken into account, the United States might claim to be really France's most profitable customer. French trade in the United States, he added, might be extended considerably. He continued: 'The American protective tariff isn't the only or principal obstacle to a possible increase. Indeed, French exports to the United States never have grown so notably as during the past three years. So considerably has French trade been enhanced that the manufacturers might be justified if they exclaimed: "If this is a result of your American tariff, please make it a little higher." ' Mr. Skinner showed that American exports to France, while enormous in value and volume, consisted chiefly of raw materials and foods, and he hoped that when the new French tariff was completed it would result in making it possible for America manufactured goods to enter the French market on no less favorable terms than the goods of other countries. Concerning wheat, Mr. Sk said that when the restoration of Russia should have occurred, and

other countries had increased their annual crops, it must necessarily be more difficult for the American farmer to dispose of his grain."

Grain Marketing An editorial in Price Current-Grain Reporter for January 14 says: "The unprecedented large crop of wheat this past year was absorbed on a continued rising market. Millions of dollars were paid out by the terminal market dealers upon arrival of the grain. The farmers received full market value, less freight and handling charges, and did not have to wait a minute for their money--a severe contrast to the operations of the various grain pools. It is easy to see what would have happened if the grain exchanges had not existed. When last year's crops were harvested the farmers were hard up. The reason is known to all. Grain was marketed in large volumes. What price would the farmers have received if there had been no organized market for them, the grain exchange it is hard to say. Prices would surely have been forced down to a point where it would hardly have paid to harvest. The grain farmer would have been in the same predicament as many fruit farmers find themselves when a large crop is raised, fruit rotting on the ground and consumers paying a fancy price. But not so with the grain farmers; they had back of them the grain exchanges able to control untold millions, due to the highly organized marketing machinery perfected through years of evolution. Thus the grain crops could be moved on the smallest margin of profit and the farmer receive his cold cash without delay. Grain speculators have been condemned for the economic service they render because the average person does not understand the function they perform. If the grain exchanges were abolished, where a free and open market prevails the farmers would soon find the spread between what they would receive and what the grain would finally sell for would be so wide as to be staggering. The service the grain exchanges render is recording world prices, letting the farmer know every minute of the trading day what his grain is worth and causing it to be handled on a narrow margin of profit. No commodity not traded in on an organized exchange is marketed so readily, so promptly and so economically. The present system may be improved some day. It may even be discarded for a better one, but that better one isn't in sight yet, and until some other system of marketing is tried out and proven the present system must be kept for the preservation of agriculture. Grain dealers should never apologize for being 'middlemen.' They should be proud of the business in which they are engaged--provided they live up to the code of ethics prescribed by their exchange in dealing with their customers."

Price Making An editorial in Sioux City Live Stock Record for January 14 says: "Who determines prices? Is it not the profiteer himself? Very rarely, and then only within narrow limits, or for a short time. Except in the unusual case of monopoly, it is the buyer who makes the price, says the Yale Review. By the buyer, we mean in all cases, unless otherwise stated, the man who buys for final consumption. The seller fixes merely the price at which goods are offered; the buyer fixes the price at which they are sold. No merchant ever suffers long under the delusion that he can control selling prices. This may sound like nonsense to a man who has just bought a Ford car. He found the car already priced, and priced too high to suit him; but he had to pay the price or leave the car. Nevertheless, even Henry is no exception to the rule. Millions of people, in deciding to buy or not to buy at a given price, tell Mr.Ford at what price he can dispose of his output. It is literally true that on every road in the country there is some driver who has had a part in fixing the price of Ford cars."

Russian Grain Exports

The Wall Street Journal for January 17 says: "Since 1923 there has been a belief in many quarters that Russia would be a substantial exporter of grain this season. As there was a conceivable ground for this belief it has had influence upon the market. Russia's grain acreage was increased over 1923 and the Soviet officials have never been accused of modesty in their predictions of future exports. But the actual fulfillment is a different matter. Conditions are reversed and Russia will do well if she produces all she needs for her own consumption. Russia's normal production formerly bulked big in world economics. The communistic experiment ruined national productive power and took the country out of the front rank of grain exporters. Nevertheless Russian area is so large that it had some influence on the market last year,--exporting 23,000,000 bushels of wheat, 42,000,000 of rye, about 29,000,000 of corn, oats and barley, and some flax and oil cake, the total amounting to over $113,000,000. It is true that Russian producers were practically robbed of this; but the influence upon the market was just the same as though the Soviet government had actually paid them for it. Russian grain area in 1924 was increased 6 or 7 per cent over 1923 but the harvest is much less. From the best estimates obtainable it seems as if Russia's total production of all grains will be a little over 45,000,000 tons. This with a small carryover makes a total supply of 48,000,000. How much of this is food and how much feed grain is not known. The Russian Central Statistical Office calculates home requirements at 45,300,000 tons. A ton of rye equals about 36 1/2 bushels. Therefore, taking Russian estimates there would be a carryover of less than 100,000,000 bushels of grain of all kinds for that great population. Although the Soviet officials continue to make promises of grain exports, the Finance Commissioner, who is regarded as an authority even outside of Russia, says it will not be known until spring whether or not she will have an exportable surplus. The reason for this is that the full extent of the relief work can not yet be calculated. Meanwhile, Russia is buying wheat and flour in Canada. These facts should discount any possibility of Russia being a factor in the export markets. Instead of being an important surplus producer Russia is buying grain to feed her people. The Russian bear which, in market imagination, once looked so large has passed from the stage or, rather, has been changed into a hungry bull."

Wheat Prices

An editorial in The New York Sun for January 15 says: "While both the present absolute level of wheat prices and the rapidity of their advance in recent months are without parallel under peace influences and sound currency conditions for more than half a century, the causes which have led to the current advance are not obscure or mysterious. They represent merely the inexorable working out of the law of supply and demand. If we look solely at the situation in the United States, it is true, prices seem to be moving contrary to that law, for our total 1924 wheat crop of 872,000,000 bushels was actually 87,000,000 larger than the crop of the year before. But this country produces only one-fourth of the world's wheat. As the market for wheat is a world market, the price of wheat in Chicago is governed, not by the American supply alone, but by the world supply....It will be the part of wisdom for the American farmer to accept the present price level as abnormal and not to expect it to continue. If we are encouraged by existing price levels to increase our sowings too much we might easily find ourselves with a large production which, with favorable weather abroad, might create a world crop that would send prices very low again."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended January 17: Potatoes generally firm at shipping points but unsettled in city markets. New York sacked Round Whites $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $1 to $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. Prices of onions show little change. New York yellows mostly $3 to $3.25 sacked per 100 pounds in the East; $2.90 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage $3 to $6 lower at $25 to $30 bulk per ton in eastern markets; steady at $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. Best New York Baldwin apples sold at $7 per barrel in New York. Eastern Staymans $6 to $7 in a few markets.

In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is weak to 50¢ lower, veal $1 to $4 lower; lamb $1 to $2 down; mutton firm to $1 higher and pork loins 50¢ to $1.50 lower. January 17 prices good grade meats: Beef $13 to $17; veal $16 to $18; lamb $26 to $29; mutton $16 to $18; light pork loins $16.50 to $19; heavy loins $14.50 to $17.

Closing grain prices quoted January 17: No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.80 1/2 to $2.17 1/2. No.2 red winter St. Louis $2.12. No.2 hard winter St. Louis $1.87 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.28 3/4; Minneapolis $1.30 to $1.32. St. Louis $1.27 to $1.27 1/2. No.3 white corn St. Louis $1.27. No.3 white oats Chicago 58 1/4 to 59¢; Minneapolis 55 1/8 to 55 3/8¢; St. Louis 60 1/2 to 61 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 17 points during week closing at 23.48¢ per lb. New York January future contracts declined 10 points, closing at 23.50¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 39¢; Chicago 39 1/2 to 40¢; Philadelphia 40 1/2¢; Boston 40 1/2¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Jan. 17,	Jan. 16,	Jan. 17, 1924
	20 Industrials	123.13	121.71	96.42
	20 R.R.stocks	99.30	98.41	80.76

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 19.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

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HOOVER BEFORE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Secretary Hoover, called January 19 before the President's agricultural Commission to express the viewpoint of commercial and industrial interests on farm problems, declared the best guarantee of prosperity in the industry would be the balancing of production and American consuming power. National policies could be adopted, he said, that would bring about this balance and leave the American farmer free from the necessity of exporting large quantities of principal products, with the consequent holding down of his prices to world levels. "We import agricultural produce that we could better produce at home; we export foodstuffs and other agricultural products," he asserted, "Our farmers, caught both ways, suffer in both directions from competition of cheaper labor and lower standards of living abroad." Nevertheless, he continued, there is "within the region of practical possibility," a national policy that would work effectively to reduce the output and stimulate home consumption of agricultural products that hitherto have shown a surplus for export. Along with this, he said, tariff schedules would be needed to assist in bringing about the desired result, and programs now under way to reduce waste and costs in industry could be advanced through the whole national scheme of transporting and distributing commodities between producers and consumers. The United States can seek a status of economic self-containment as to agriculture, he declared, citing statistics of arable land and trade, and will even find incidental military benefit from so doing. "If we allow our national economy to drift so that we have this dependence on imports for certain essential products and, at the same time, a dependence upon exports for disposing of other essential products of the farm," he asserted, "we shall be involved in a constant drain for an enormous military expenditure to protect both our import food supplies and export markets of our farmers." (Press, Jan. 20.)

TRADE COMMISSION AND COTTON PRACTICES

Federal legislation to reform cotton merchandising practices was recommended to Congress January 19 by the Federal Trade Commission. Reporting on an investigation asked in a Senate resolution, the commission declared abuses had grown up that bore unfairly on cotton producers generally. In general, the commission suggested, members of cotton exchanges who receive cotton consignments for sale should be forbidden to sell the cotton to themselves, without permission of the shippers; records should be kept by exchanges that would allow the cotton shipper to compare the price received for his shipment with prices current at the time of sale; borrowings on cotton consignment to brokers should be limited, and exchanges should be required to expel members who do not make immediate cash return of the money due to their shippers. The legislation suggested would make it a criminal offense for cotton receivers to adopt practices that fail to conform with the rules outlined. It likewise would require that cotton shipped in interstate or foreign commerce be stored in licensed warehouses. (Press, Jan. 20.)

ARKANSAS ROADS

Federal courts have jurisdiction to place road improvement districts in Arkansas in the hands of receivers when they default any payments on their bonds, the Supreme Court declared January 19 in a case brought by the Guardian Savings and Trust Company of Cleveland, Ohio, against Road Improvement District No. 7 of Poinsett County, Ark. (Press, Jan. 20.)

Section 2

Agricultural Situation

Speakers at the regular Saturday meeting of the National Republican Club at New York January 17 said that it would be a mistake to attempt to impose Government supervision on the farmer in trying to relieve his condition, and that only by the farmer himself could the present farm problem be solved. They agreed that the farmer would have to become a business man and sell his product by business methods. Asserting that a real emergency in farming exists, Robert D. Carey, chairman of the President's agricultural commission, said that if something was not done to meet it cattlemen would be put out of business. "Agriculture is one of our largest industries," Mr. Carey said. "There is $76,000,000,000 invested in it, and yet it is practically unorganized. The farmer is an individualist and he is not a business man. He does not consider what demand there is for his crops. He grows what crops he wants to grow and he overlooks the selling end. It is because he has no control over the market that he doesn't study it. Last year there was an overproduction of wheat. And so it goes, one year a large supply of cattle and hogs and the next year a shortage. To-day the farmer is suffering from the high standards of living in this country. The price of everything he uses has gone up, but the price he gets for his product has not risen correspondingly. In 1914 the rate to ship cattle from Chicago to New York was 32 1/2 cents per 100 pounds. In 1922 it was 48 1/2 cents. Yet the price of cattle in that period has declined from $8.70 to $8.50. The farmer has suffered from an enormous increase in taxes. Property taxes increased 116% between 1912 and 1922, and in some Western States the average increase has been 172%. The farmer is paying the greater part of these taxes. Local taxes have been particularly heavy. In Kansas 12% of the taxes are for the benefit of State and 88% are local taxes. I believe the Government should handle the business of the farmer as little as possible. But the farmer has as much right to go to Congress and ask for relief as any one else. The railroads get relief and the manufacturers make it a custom to ask Congress for a protective tariff. The farmer as well should be able to go to Congress for help. The farmer should be taught to prevent over-production of certain crops, according to the market. He must learn business principles and marketing."

B. F. Yoakum, railroad builder and financier, said: "Such a measure as suggested by Senator Borah, extending the centralized power of the Government over agriculture, is a far more dangerous thing, if possible, than the present deplorable farm situation. The proposed law (the Capper-Williams bill) which Senator Borah refers to as solving this problem would be the greatest and the most far-reaching step ever undertaken toward imperialistic government, which is now reaching a dangerous point. It would develop and grow the most powerful political machine the country has ever known."

Bixby Re-elected by Livestock Men

An Albuquerque, N.Mex., dispatch to the press of January 17 states that Fred. H. Bixby, a member of the President's agricultural commission, was unanimously re-elected president of the American National Livestock Association at the closing session of its convention, January 16.

Branding Goods

The Journal of Commerce for January 19 says: "Some recent dispatches from Washington appear to indicate that Congress may yet deviate into sense on the question of branding goods. Apparently a measure

which follows the lines of laws which have proved useful and workable in foreign countries has been favorably reported to the House by the committee on interstate and foreign commerce. This bill, from current accounts, would simply make it unlawful for manufacturers or others to employ misleading or fraudulent labels or brands. It would perhaps strengthen existing law and, if properly administered, harm no legitimate interest. The question is, of course, can Congress under the influence, as it is, of sundry special interests gain its own consent to any such simple and obviously wise action? As is well known, most of the so-called misbranding and 'truth-in-fabrics' proposals have been in the main suggested in the first place and kept alive by selfish groups who wished to gain special advantages from them. Safeguarding the consumer has from the first been far from the thoughts of most of these reformers, and claims that any such idea dominated the movement is sheer hypocrisy. Let Congress shake off these essentially evil influences and take the wise course that is now proposed. Above all let it not grant the Federal Trade Commission roving powers that may turn its better intent to nothing."

Butter Standards Creamery Journal for January 15 says: "While the present state of affairs in regard to the Federal regulation of the amount of water incorporated in butter clearly shows that there should be a national law setting a definite figure, there would still be the uncertainty of adequately enforcing such a measure. During the time when the ruling of the Internal Revenue Bureau was accepted as being authoritative, there were continually recurring cases of creameries being caught on the large markets with excess moisture content. In recent months, American butter that was exported has to a certain extent met with disfavor and misfortune on the foreign market because of the same cause. And perhaps quite a large part of the exported butter was manufactured before the illegality of the former ruling was discovered. In both of these instances, there is a feeling that a more thorough checkup by some agency should have been made on the water content of the product being manufactured, before it had entered into channels of trade and brought trouble and discredit to both manufacturers and those who were handling it. Of course a Federal law which applies to a shipment of butter only when it enters interestate commerce is expected to be enforced by agents acting for the Government. But almost always in such cases when a shipment is intercepted it makes it much more expensive for the shipper than if the butter had been subjected to scrutiny closer to the source of manufacture. Thus it seems that the State in which the butter has been manufactured is more or less at fault for not having given the proper amount of attention to the enforcement of the State law."

Cotton Exports A New Orleans dispatch to the press of December 19 states that cotton exports have now reached a total which makes it reasonably certai that the 5,000,000-bale line will be reached and crossed by the end of the next month, with six full months of the season still ahead. It further seems probable that exports for the year will considerably exceed 7,000,000 bales. It is equally evident that at the rate at which consumption is increasing among American mills the final consumption totals at the end of the season will exceed last year by a handsome margin. The British mills are also expanding their business was made evident by the big increase shown in exports of yarns and cloths during December by the

British Board of Trade returns. According to the Liverpool weekly statement, Liverpool forwarded to mills during the past week 60,000 bales, which would seem to indicate that the Lancashire mills are running at top speed.

Fisher on Prices

A New Haven dispatch to the press of January 19 states that Professor Irving Fisher's index number of American commodity prices last week, based on 100 as the average of 1913, is 161.6, compared with 159.4 the preceding week, 159.1 two weeks before and 156.7 three weeks ago. This week's average is higher than any reached in 1924. Last year's high point was 156.7, on Dec. 27; its lowest, 142.3, on June 29. The highest percentage since the war was 247, in May, 1920; the lowest, 130, in January, 1922. Crump's British index number, as cabled for the past week, was 164.4, comparing with 166.5 a week before, 166.3 two weeks ago, 165.9 three weeks ago and 164.7 four weeks ago.

German Potash Trust

A Berlin dispatch to the press of January 19 states that the German potash syndicate is opening a branch company in Holland. Its statement of last year's results show that sales of potash at home and for export aggregated 841,900 metric tons in 1924, reckoned in pure potash, which is 44,000 tons less than in 1923. The Wintershall trust, which already controls more than one-third of the potash syndicate's output, is negotiating for acquisition of the Prussian State mines. This would give the concern a majority power in the syndicate.

Prices-Wholesale and Retail

A sharp increase in the general level of wholesale prices in December as compared with the preceding month is shown by information gathered in leading markets by the United States Department of Labor through the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's weighted index number, comprising 404 commodities or price series, rose to 157.0 for December compared with 152.7 for November, a gain of 2-3/4 per cent. In no month since April, 1923, when the index stood at 158.7, have prices averaged as high. (Press statement, Jan. 15.)

The retail food index issued by the U.S.Department of Labor through the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that there was an increase of about 1 per cent in the retail cost of food in December, 1924, as compared with November, 1924. The index number (1913 = 100.0) was 150.1 in November and 151.5 in December. (Press statement, Jan. 19.)

Wheat Marketing

The Northwestern Miller for January 14 says: "While wheat prices were declining, as the result of an oversupply and the inability of many countries, normally large importers of wheat, to buy in accordance with their actual needs, there was much complaint on the part of the farmers, and still more from their self-constituted advocates, that the wheat growers were the victims of speculation. There was constant pressure on Congress to pass laws limiting, if not entirely prohibiting, all trade in wheat futures, and it was argued that such action would tend to increase the actual value of wheat on the farm. The average speculator in wheat, or in any other commodity, is normally on the bull side of the market, and when prices are falling he tends to stay out. Accordingly, the amount of trading in wheat futures during the period of low prices was very much less than had been the case for many years previously. Last summer and fall, on the other hand, the rapid advance in wheat values, due fundamentally to world supply and demand conditions, brought out once more an enormous amount of speculative buying and selling

This great increase in the trading in wheat futures contributed materially to speeding up the advance... .In other words, it is perfectly obvious that large volume of trading in wheat futures, which means an increased amount of speculative buying and selling, goes hand in hand with higher prices to the farmer. Considering the clear statistical evidence on this point, it looks as though the people who have attempted to put an end to speculative activity in wheat futures have been trying to kill the goose that has laid golden eggs for the wheat growers."

Wool

The N. Z. L. Quarterly Magazine for December says: "The American demand for wool in the various Australian selling centers this season has been a helpful factor, and altogether a substantial volume of wool has already been secured, whilst the demand looks like expanding as the selection on offer improves. The United States of America demand for wool seems to fluctuate more than that of other countries, and political developments play an important part; but the re-election of the retiring President appears to have given confidence in a continued settled policy. A couple of years ago America bought more 'foreign' wool than requirements justified. This was largely due to the fact that both dealers and manufacturers were operating simultaneously, covering the one set of requirements. In the end it transpired that the United States of America had overbought, and last season was a dull one. Eventually a large volume of wool was re-shipped for sale in England and the Continent, and with the market practically cleared of old stocks, a revived demand was felt."

Wool Mills for West

The San Francisco Examiner for January 11 says: "The development of mills and warehousing facilities capable of meeting the needs of the great wool industry of the West will be one of the objectives of the sixtieth annual convention of the National Wool Growers' Association to be held at San Francisco January 21, 22 and 23. The necessity of this has been brought forcibly to the attention of the wool growers, especially the western continent, through the efforts of the Boston Wool Trade Association which has applied to the Interstate Commerce Commission for the adoption of through bills of lading on shipments made from western points by rail to San Francisco and then by steamer to the East. The western section of the wool growers' organization sees in this move if successful an added handicap in the matter of rates from the standpoint of western warehouse and mill operators. There are comparatively few woolen mills and warehouses in Pacific coast ports in comparison to the amount of wool produced in the West it is said. At the present time the Western States are shipping annually more than 20,000,000 pounds of wool to eastern mills. All of this passes through the port of San Francisco."

Wool Prices

A Boston dispatch to the press of January 17 says: "It may be assumed as the fact that the American Woolen Company will be obliged to advance prices on its goods this coming season, barring some unforeseen change in the situation, according to authorities in the trade. With labor on the same high basis it was a year ago and wool 50 per cent dearer than it was last July it is declared to be manifest that the future price for goods can take only one course."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 19: Chicago hog prices closed at $10.90 for the top and $9.85 to $10.80 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.65 to $13; butcher cows and heifers $3.50 to $11; feeder steers $4.90 to $7.75; veal calves $8.25 to $12.25; fat lambs $16 to $19; feeding lambs $15 to $17.50; yearlings $13.50 to $17 and fat ewes $8.25 to $13.25.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $1.05 f.o.b. Rochester. Delaware and Maryland yellow sweet potatoes $2.25 to $2.75 per bushel hamper in a few eastern markets. New York Danish type cabbage steady to slightly weaker at $23 to $30 bulk per ton in leading eastern markets; slightly weaker at $16 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples slightly weaker at $5 to $6 per barrel, top of $7 in Chicago. Illinois Jonathans steady at $8.50 to $9 in Chicago.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 38¢; Chicago 38 1/2¢; Philadelphia 39¢; Boston 40¢.

Grain prices quoted January 19: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.81 to $2.17. No.2 red winter Chicago $2.03 1/2; St. Louis $2.10 to $2.15; Kansas City $1.99 to $2.05. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.90 to $1.90 3/4; St. Louis $1.88 1/2 to $1.89; Kansas City $1.80 to $1.97. No.2 mixed corn Minneapolis $1.31. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.32. Kansas City $1.26 1/2 to $1.27. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.28 to $1.31; Minneapolis $1.33 to $1.34; St. Louis $1.27 1/2 to $1.33. No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.26 to $1.26 1/2. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.27 1/2 to $1.28; St. Louis $1.38. No.3 white oats Chicago 59 to 60 1/4¢; Minneapolis 55 5/8 to 56 1/8¢; St. Louis 60 1/2 to 61 1/2¢. No.2 white oats Kansas City 61¢.

Middling spot cotton in 8 designated markets up 3 points, closing at 23.51¢ per lb. New York January future contracts up 7 points, closing at 23.57¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 19,	Jan. 17,	Jan. 19, 1924
20 Industrials	122.35	123.13	96.28
20 R.R. stocks	99.05	99.30	80.80

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 20.)

DAILY DIGEST

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FEDERAL BUILDINGS LEGISLATION

Representative Elliott, acting chairman of the House public buildings committee, January 20 introduced the bill approved by Secretary Mellon, providing for an expenditure of $150,000,000 over a period of years for the erection of public buildings, including $50,000,000 for Washington. (Press, Jan. 21.)

SUPPLY BILL REPORTED

A combination supply bill was reported January 19 by the House appropriations committee. The State Department's quota allots $54,340, an increase of $24,763, to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. (Press, Jan. 20.)

NATIONAL PARKS

Rivalry among the States of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee to secure national parks in the Appalachian mountain ranges resulted in a decision by the North Carolina congressional delegation and the North Carolina State Park Commission to submit to Congress a resolution for congressional investigation of park sites in the various tracts in their respective States that have been submitted. (Press, Jan. 20.)

ARGENTINA FINES ARMOUR CO.

A Buenos Aires dispatch to the press of January 21 states that the Argentine law enacted last year for the control of the meat industry was invoked for the first time when the Government recently imposed a fine of 2,558 pesos on Armour & Co. and 1,279 pesos each on two sheep brokers for operations alleged to have been in violation of a section of the law prohibiting discrimination among livestock producers or the taking of unique advantage of them by purchasers of their products. It was alleged that the brokers bought sheep from a rancher at below the day's market price and sold them next day to Armour & Co. at above the market price, making a profit of 40 per cent. This was described in the Government's decree as a "fictitious manoeuvre" which could not have been effected without "the negligence, tolerance or complicity of Armour & Co." The total fines represent four times the amount the owner of the sheep was alleged to have lost by the operation.

NATIONS AND RAW MATERIALS

William S. Culbertson, of the U.S. Tariff Commission, told the Conference on the Cause and Cure of War at its third meeting at Washington, January 20, that one of the chief causes for war would be eliminated if the raw materials of the world were open to all peoples. Mr. Culbertson was discussing "Raw Materials, Markets and War." Mr. Culbertson said in part: "A detached observer to-day, ignorant of the national ambitions and imperial policies of the world, viewing the existing rivalry for raw materials, would marvel that a world so rich in resources should quarrel and fight over their control. The world's supply of essential raw materials is ample and in most cases inexhaustible. In any case the struggle for control is not primarily due to fear of exhaustion, but rather to the fear that others powers may extend their political control over these sources, establishing a monopoly to the detriment of excluded industrial nations."

Section 2

Farming

An editorial in The Birmingham, Ala., News for January 18 says: "It would seem that the major task for the educational authorities is to bring before farm folk the opportunities that exist for farm people. In the early part of the month, at the meeting of instructors in vocational education, one of the farm teachers reported that a boy down in Baldwin County had made over $4,000 on a few acres of Irish potatoes--a 17-year-old boy. It is amazing. What is needed is for better contact between marketing organizations and the farmers, and for the farmers themselves to get the vision. As a matter of fact the farmer has been possessed of an 'inferiority complex' which has been aided and magnified by politicians, and to some extent by the loose-thinking press. Many farmers are obsessed by the idea that they are victims of circumstances and 'hard work.' Really the farmer does not work nearly so hard, so continuously and steadily as an employed man, and he does not systematize his efforts and make them more effective. He often goes along in a rut, does not pay attention to a lot of things, and always has in front of him the idea that he can not do more than eke a mere existence. The record of that Baldwin County boy is refutation--as are thousands of other instances. The educators and the press have the duty of holding up for the farmer's inspection the instances of success. Really, for a live, energetic, forward-thinking young man, the farm offers vastly greater future than a clerkship or similar minor position in the city."

Forest Waste in North Carolina

The situation as to the forests of North Carolina is comparable to the capital which a wasteful heir is spending, according to the North Carolina Geological Survey, in a statement pointing out that two-thirds of the State's land area of 31,000,000 acres which is either in timber of some kind or is best adapted to the growth of timber have been left to the processes of a progressive squander. The reverse of this is true of the remaining third of the land devoted to agriculture to manufacturing and industrial purposes, in which, it is stated, intensive development has taken place. (N.Y.Times, Jan. 20.)

Grain Exports

Grain exports from the United States last week were 3,706,000 bushels compared with 2,501,000 the previous week. Commerce Department figures gave the following comparisons between exports last week and those of the week before; Wheat, 2,280,000 bushels against 1,697,000; barley, 863,000 against 535,000; corn, 214,000 against 106,000; oats 72,000 against 55,000; rye, 277,000 against 108,000. Canadian grains exported through United States ports amounted to 1,641,000 bushels compared with 1,559,000 a week ago. There were 428,000 barrels of Canadian and United States flour exported from the United States against none the previous week. (Press, Jan. 20.)

Hoover Advocates Export Trade

American export organizations should be kept in the foreign trade field, and during the next year or two unusual assistance should be given them to tide over what is going to be a rather difficult period, Secretary Hoover told the House appropriations committee during hearings on the Commerce Department appropriation bill, which were made public January 19. Secretary Hoover said that while the economic restoration of Europe increases the market for American products, it also stimulates their competition in our manufacturing exports.

Migratory Bird Legislation

That the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty, which has been enacted between this country and Canada, will before long be extended to Mexico is the belief of the American Game Protective Association. A bulletin just issued by that organization says that migratory bird legislation can never be considered complete until there are reasonable regulations covering every foot of territory from the northernmost haunts of the birds to the wintering places of those which go the furthest South. (Press, Jan. 19.)

Milk Marketing in Scotland

The Scottish Farmer for January 3, in an editorial based upon a recent address by Joseph A. Turner before the Milk Producers' Association at Philadelphia, says: "American dairy farmers have a talent for facing the facts, which it would be well for milk producers in this country to cultivate. It is interesting to note that the most stubborn fact for the U. S. A. milk producer is not quite so stubborn for his British compeer. It is that the American farmer find himself buying every manufactured article he needs in a protected market, while he sells everything he produces in an open market. The people who talk protection and subsidies at farmers' conferences in this country never face this unpleasant fact in American politics, and they carefully conceal, especially from the dairy farmer, that that precisely would be his lot were their policies to become operative in Great Britain. The dairy farmer's position here is like his compeer's in the United States, in this, that he is compelled to sell everything he produces, except raw milk, in a market open to the world. Mr. Turner, in the address before us, does not suggest to his hearers that they can alter the unpleasant fiscal fact; he urges them to recognize that they may minimize its untoward influence by following certain well-defined lines of action. These are clearly stated, and are as applicable to British as to American conditions. Fact number one is that dairy farmers are producers of an indispensable article of food. That gives them a big advantage, and it is an additional advantage that in respect of raw milk they have the market to themselves. Fact number two is that the public are entitled to have this article put upon the market clean, unadulterated, and of as high a standard of quality as can be attained. They are also entitled to have it, as well as all other articles of food, at as low a cost as is consistent with an adequate return for labor and a fair profit to the producer. In order to attain this end the dairy farmer must endeavor to produce large quantities at a minimum cost overhead. The primary means to this end is in no sense novel or unique; it is the means universally adopted in all businesses that mean to prosper. The producer must be constantly seeking to improve his machinery--that is, in the case before us, his dairy cows; he must know their individual production and the mass production of his herd. He can make no headway if he only guesses at these figures; he must know them, and this end can only be attained by keeping milk records. The milk recording society holds the key to improved results on the dairy farm. Means having been taken to produce the best at lowest cost, the next stage is the devising of means whereby the supply of milk may be regulated to the demand. Cooperation among producers within given areas at this stage becomes a necessity.. The root principle here is that the surplus largely determines the price that the farmer is likely to get, and unless he can regulate the putting of his surplus upon the market he is likely to find himself inadequately compensated. He can not do this unless he first of all knows

approximately what is to be the demand for a given period, and he will be wise to seek methods whereby he can determine the per capita consumption within the area of his supply, and deduce therefrom the overhead demand. It is within this sphere that thorough effective cooperation can benefit the milk producer."

Muskrat Farms in Canada

One of the new phases of fur farming in Canada, which is meeting with success and in which extensive development is taking place both in the eastern and western areas of the Dominion, is the domestic rearing of the muskrat, states a Canadian Pacific bulletin. The last report of the Federal Government listed ten muskrat farms, which was double the number reported in the previous year. Three were in British Columbia, two in Alberta, and one each in other Provinces. The number of animals on the farms increased in one year from 5,157, worth $7,310, to 10,820, valued at $16,861.

Rural Industries in Britain

The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture (London) for January says: "The Ministry is anxious to encourage the development and maintenance of rural industries by all the means in its power. By rural industries are chiefly meant those additional and subsidiary home employments of the countryside which serve to augment the income of rural workers: in some favorable cases, of course, they provide the whole of the income. In a few counties a rural industries sub-committee of the County Council is in active existence, and the Ministry desires to see these sub-committees operating in every county, and to help in achieving that object a circular has recently been addressed to all county councils, indicating that financial assistance will, if required, be made available. The general business of the development of rural industries is also the special care of the Rural Industries Bureau, London, which is prepared to give practical advice on starting or restarting local industries and on securing markets for the goods produced. Clearly this last is an essential need; the goods produced, whether woodwork, metal work, rush work, matting, lace or what not, must be systematically marketed if the industries are to become properly established. The goods may be a little dearer than ordinary shop goods, but are usually better made, more lasting and more beautiful than factory-made articles...The Ministry considers that it is to the benefit of all farmers and others dwelling in the country, and of the Nation at large, that rural industries should be widely established, and it calls upon everyone interested to take whatever steps are possible to further the movement."

Sugar Subsidy in Britain

Herbert N. Casson, writing in The Philadelphia Ledger for January 19, says: "The most significant act of the new Government in England has been its attitude toward the sugar business. It has voted a subsidy to home-made sugar and retained a tariff on imported sugar, and the sugar business is now the most subsidized and protected industry in Great Britain. The subsidy in 1925 will amount to about $2,500,000. This subsidy is to continue ten years. It is to be $4.30 per cwt. for the first four years, $2.85 for the next three years, and then $1.45 for the remaining three years. The sugar companies will be left under private control. There are only two of these at present, operating two factories, but eight more factories will be built at once. The conditions of the subsidy are that not less than $9.70 per ton must be paid to the farmers for beets, and that 75 per cent of the machinery in the factories must be made in Great Britain...."

Vienna Socialist Bakery Sold

A Vienna dispatch to the press of January 20 states that the brea factory belonging to the Viennese Social Democratic Party, which is capitalized at 1,000,000,000 Austrian crowns and supplies 40 per cent of Vienna's bread, January 19 was delivered into the hands of private capital. Fifteen years ago this large bread factory, with its own flour mills, was founded by the Social Democratic Party as an example of socialism and in order to control bread prices. The model works were the pride of the party, which pointed to the institution as an example of modern socialism. Two thousand workmen were employed, who, after the post-war upheaval, enjoyed to the full all of the rights acquired through the revolution. After stabilization and the money shortage, the Social Democrats were forced to sell 60 per cent of their stock to Sigmund Bosel, a prototype of post-war capitalism. Unable to lower the price of bread to meet their chief competitor, a private concern, and in order to circumvent the repeated taunts of the bourgeois press, the Social Democrats have now sold the whole factory to Bosel. The new owner is endeavoring to form a group of British and Dutch financiers to take over the concern.

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in New York Commercial for January 20 says: "The Bureau of Entomology of the United States Government is doing more for the farmers of the United States than can all commissions appointed by Congress or the President to study the economic 'problems' which confront the tiller of the soil. Insects are definitely a pest of the greatest magnitude to the farmer. They limit his crop, despite the best he can do, working early and late to beat the destroying host that descends upon his fields and orchards shortly after the summer season commences...And it is here that the Bureau of Entomology comes forward to help. It has made possible the growing of tick-free cattle in the Southwestern States; it has already shown how the boll weevil may be controlled in a measure and will doubtless soon have perfected a plan whereby it may be overcome practically altogether; it has demonstrated recently that hydro-cyanic acid gas may be a sovereign remedy for campho: scale so troublesome to orchardists; it has discovered the cause and mea of preventing white pine blister rust; it has helped the grape growers, the dairymen, the hog raisers and, in fact, all farmers of whatever branch of husbandry....It is in such undertakings as we have referred to that one finds a positively helpful work of the Government that is applicable to the case of the farmer. And it is doubtful if—aside fror land-bank loans and a protective tariff—it can do anything more for him. What is more to the point, the Government is working along positive constructive lines when it shows the farmers how to fight insects, disease, soil losses, droughts and floods. Such aids help the whole country without in the slightest degree injuring anybody. There is nothing of the bloc idea in such work. There is nothing paternalistic in it, and it does not tend to make the poor farmer think that he can lay the blame for his failure to the Government and ask it to support him by passing laws which will give him something that he has neither worked for nor earned....."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 20: New York sacked Round White potatoes ranged $1.35 to $1.50 in eastern markets; $1.05 to $1.10 f.o.b. Rochester. Yellow onions from New York and the Middle West sold mostly at $3 to $3.25 sacked per 100 pounds in city markets; $2.85 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage mostly $2.25 to $2.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper, top of $3 in Chicago. Northwestern Extra Fancy Jonathan apples $3 to $3.75 per box.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11 for the top, bulk of sales $10 to $10.90; medium and good beef steers $7.50 to $12.75; butcher cows and heifers $3.65 to $11; feeder steers $4.90 to $7.75; light and medium weight veal calves $8.50 to $10.75; fat lambs $16 to $19.10; feeding lambs $15 to $17.50; yearlings $13.75 to $17.25 and fat ewes $7 to $11.

Grain prices quoted January 20: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.81 1/2 to $2.14 1/2. No.3 red winter St. Louis $2.15 to $2.17. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.89 1/2 to $1.90 3/4; St. Louis $1.89. No.3 mixed corn Chicago $1.24. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.28 to $1.31; Minneapolis $1.32 1/2; St. Louis $1.27 to $1.29. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.25, St. Louis $1.28 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 57 1/2 to 60 1/4¢; Minneapolis 55 3/8¢; St. Louis 61 to 62¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 3 points, closing at 23.54¢ per lb. New York January future contracts down 7 points, closing at 23.50¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 20,	Jan. 19,	Jan. 19, 1924
20 Industrials	121.74	122.35	96.28
20 R.R.stocks	98.46	99.05	80.80

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 21.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVI, no.18 Section 1 January 22, 1925

AGRICULTURAL RELIEF LEGISLATION

The New York Times to-day reports: "Members of the Congressional farm group are considering a plan to throw their solid strength behind some farm relief measure with the hope of getting legislation enacted at this session. Just what form the bill will take has not been determined, but an effort will be made to produce a measure which will receive the endorsement of the President's agricultural commission and the support of the farm groups in Congress. At a meeting last night at the Capitol, called by Chairman Norris of the Senate agricultural committee, Senators and Representatives interested in farm problems heard arguments in support of a modified McNary-Haugen bill, which was defeated in its original form at the last session of Congress, from spokesmen for the American Council of Agriculture. No indication was given, however, that this plan more than any other was being considered by the Congressional farm group as the measure on which they would concentrate."

PUBLIC STOCKYARD MAINTENANCE

Testimony was submitted to the Senate agricultural committee yesterday by meat packers that they favor maintenance of public stockyards, but oppose legislation to prohibit consignment of cattle to their own establishments. (Press, Jan. 22.)

GRAZING FEE BILL

A San Francisco dispatch to the press of January 22 states that the National Wool Growers' Association, which opened its annual convention at San Francisco, January 21, is expected to indorse the bill introduced into Congress by Senator Phipps, adjusting grazing fees in national forests, according to convention leaders. A contest is expected over the "misbranding" or "truth-in-fabric" bill, which is pending in Congress, and which has been before that body in some form or other for eighteen years.

COTTON CONSUMPTION FIGURES

A New Orleans dispatch to the press to-day states that Frank B. Hayne, president of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, has protested to Louisiana and Georgia Senators that an inaccurate report on world consumption of cotton issued by the Census Bureau cost southern planters many millions of dollars. Mr. Hayne asserted that the Census Bureau in its November 14 and December 13 estimates placed world consumption at 19,400,000 bales, and on January 16 made an unexplained plus correction of 582,000 bales. Had the larger figures been issued in November, he said, the South probably would have received at least a cent a pound more for its cotton.

Receipt of later information on consumption of cotton in foreign countries was given by officials January 21 as the cause of the Census Bureau's world-consumption figures about which the New Orleans Cotton Exchange has complained to Louisiana and Georgia Senators. Statistics of consumption in foreign countries are often delayed long beyond the end of the cotton year, they said. (Press, Jan. 22.)

Section 2

Apple Sale in Oregon — A Portland, Ore., dispatch to the press of January 21 states that the entire remaining export apples of the Hood River Apple Growers' Association has been sold to Simons, Shuttleworth & French, New York exporters, at a sum in excess of $500,000. The purchase involved about 300,000 boxes, requiring more than 400 cars for their movement.

British Food Commission — An editorial in The Scottish Farmer for January 10 says: "Sir Auckland Geddes' committee, which is inquiring into the question of food prices, had quite an interesting witness before them recently in the person of Sir Charles Fielding. That gentleman had some responsibility for food control during the war, and nothing in his opinion will improve matters, and give the producer a fair share of profits, except a return to the system of control and regulation of prices, which proved effective while the war lasted. The keynote of Sir Charles' position is found in the sentence:--'We are in a war condition now in regard to food prices, and we have to find the way out of the position.'....Sir Charles Fielding's scheme involves the establishment of a National Food Board. The business of this board would be (1) to control and organize the imports of wheat; not as speculators; (2) to exercise a general control over millers, who would be the agents of the Food Board to sell the wheat offals to farmers as well as the flour to bakers. Prices would be based on the cost price of the grain, plus the ascertained cost of milling, a fixed percentage for interest, and profit on milling; (3) to control the price of bread to the consumer over the baker's counter, such price to be based on the price of flour, a reasonable ascertained cost of baking plus a reasonable profit. The second part of the business of the proposed board would be to control the imports of meat, so that supplies which could not be obtained from the home producer might be imported (a) preferentially from British possessions, or (b) from the rest of the world. This scheme would involve the revival of inter-war arrangements with auctioneers, the appointment of graders, and all the other machinery in operation during that sad time. Regarding milk, Sir Charles Fielding spoke with no uncertain voice. At present through the milk combines in London, a price was being exacted from the consumer from 2d to 2 1/2d per quart in excess of that at which it could be supplied by reasonable men engaged in supplying milk in a careful manner, and on a big scale to the public. Apparently Sir Charles' remedy for this is the formation of a milk board, which would make contracts with farmers ten years ahead. They would guarantee prices to farmers, regulated by the price of foreign produce. This milk board would supply milk to municipal boards or food controls. The effect of this scheme would be to eliminate the distributor and wholesale dealer altogether, and to give a foretaste of State socialism. As a corollary to all this the food board would have power to enforce cultivation through the district agricultural committees."

British Potato Embargo — An editorial in American Agriculturist for January 17 says: "The British Government has placed an embargo upon potatoes imported from the United States to England and Wales. The claim is made that the reason for the embargo is that there are no potato bugs in England, and that there is danger of importing them from the United States. However, it is very significant that potatoes from Canada are not included in the

embargo; and the potato bugs are just as much a nuisance in Canada as they are here. The real reason, therefore, seems to be a discrimination on the part of the British against potato growers in this country. It comes as a particularly hard blow at this time to producers in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, because we have such a large crop this year and the price is so low. Potatoes in one up-State town were being carted at 38 cents a bushel only a few days ago..

An editorial on the same subject in New England Homestead for January 10 says: "Imperial preference is a term so new to New England farmers that our potato growers are hard hit by the first dose of it. The idea is to encourage trade between the home country--England, Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland--by admitting thereto the produce of the farms and factories of any nation within the British commonwealth at a lower duty (or some other form of preference) in exchange for similar favors granted British goods by the exporting nation For instance, Great Britain has prohibited the importation of white potatoes from the United States, giving as a reason that the potato beetle might thereby be imported into England. The real object of the embargo, however, was simply to extend preference to potatoes from Canada, especially from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Of course the truth is that potatoes in the maritime provinces are not grown with any such care, inspection or certification as is practiced by certain potato growers in New England, especially in the Aroostook...."

Cotton Consumption in Japan

Japan is consuming more cotton, according to reports from Tokyo. Consumption of raw cotton in Japan during November amounted to 175,000 bales of 500 pounds gross against 165,000 bales for October. During the first four months of the season, August to November, inclusive, the consumption of cotton amounted to 635,000 bales, compared with 621,000 bales during the corresponding period of 1923. (Press, Jan.21.)

Farm Economics

An editorial in The Michigan Business Farmer for January 17 says. "A week or so ago the so-called 'farm-economists' met in Chicago and held a meeting which answered all of the problems which have been uppermost in our minds for the past several years, whether or not we recognized them as economics. Several things said there are interesting whether or not you accept them at full value. For instance: Dr.E.G.Nourse president of the association, said: 'Time was, and that not so long ago when conditions of the industrial worker were as bad as any the farmer has suffered, if not worse, and similar complaints were heard from shop and factory workers. To-day the situation has been essentially altered through building up a class-conscious group, determined to refuse conditions of employment which fell below a progressively rising level, not to say worshipped, as the American trade union standard of living. The general public did not raise the laborer's standard for him. Only because he was willing to save and fight and pay dues and stick by his union are labor conditions as good as they are to-day.' It is not always easy to pay the assessments for the grange, farm bureau or local cooperative, but as Dr. Nourse says, it is the only way out for the farmers of America, just as it was the only way out for the skilled laborer. Dr. David Friday, ex-president of the M.A.C., struck another chord in the farm economics symphony when he stated that 'in the last 25 years 10 per cent more people in farming have increased output 40 per cent. This process will continue for the future. We need not get

unduly excited about the number of people engaged in agriculture. Business prosperity and depression have practically no effect on farm activity or output. Climate means more than the business cycle. In this respect farming is very different from other businesses. The farmer has a larger proportion of fixed capital than any other business man. The other chief capital factor is land. And, unfortunately, the farmer usually buys land at the wrong time. He can't diversify his holdings, as can the owner of securities. And he can't put in stop-loss orders. Some way of minimizing this risk should be found.' Dr. Friday stated that 'increased taxes are sure to cause trouble for the next decade. For a long time taxes on farms were light compared to those on city property. But the desire for better roads and schools has changed all this.'"

Foreign Relations

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for January 21 says: "Secretary of Commerce Hoover, in a recent utterance, expressed the view that the competition which may be expected to arise to trouble our exporting industries as Europe works its way back to productivity is likely to prove short lived. European labor, Mr. Hoover thinks, may be counted upon in a short period of time to demand a higher plane of living and as soon as it does and is able to give practical effect to that demand the competitive advantage of European industry will disappear or at all events grow much smaller. In a number of respects any such analysis of the situation is open to attack. European labor may have the wisdom to strive to attain a bettered position by increasing its productivity which even if wages are maintained at low levels ought to help the workers by decreased cost at retail of goods they desire. Certainly it would be shortsighted to demand wages which curtailed the exporting power of the industries it sefves and thus to kill the goose that is capable of laying golden eggs for it. But assuming that our Secretary of Commerce has correctly foreseen the future in this respect, what then is to become of the reparation payments under the Dawes plan? Mr. Hoover, probably without intending to do so, has by implication cast serious doubts upon the efficacy of the Dawes plan."

Production and Needs

An editorial in The Florida Times-Union for January 19 says: "At more or less frequent intervals investigators....offer figures and calculations which undertake to prove that very soon the world will be so full of people that it will be impossible to raise food for their sustenance and everybody will either starve or start a war of extermination or something desperate, in order to get things adjusted again. The idea of the over-population of the earth and extinction through efforts to prevent starvation is very old, but it is renewed frequently, and it is not so long ago that some one came right home with the theory and predicted over-population for the United States....The Birmingham News says: 'What adds to the cheerfulness of the situation is that fact of vast improvement in the facilities for transportation of food between the producing and the consuming population. And therein is a sort of riddle.' Continuing, the News says: 'If America is a fair example to judge by, the tendency of the human race is to flock together in groups, away from the open spaces to the congestion of cities. It would be interesting if recent statistics had gone a step farther and presented figures showing the proportion of agriculturists that left the soil parallel with

the figures showing the miles of new railway tracks laid during the decade and the numbers of new automobiles and trucks constructed and commandeered for the service of mankind in facilitating the transportation of food, to offset the shortage of manpower on the farms. It is noted that "world railways have increased from approximately 700,000 miles in 1913 to 750,000 at the present time; the world's shipping, including sail, steam and motor vessels, has increased from approximately 40,000,000 tons in 1913 to over 60,000,000 in 1923." Thus through famine and pestilence and war and all the rest of the human afflictions there seems to be a protective and conserving sense that provides enough food to save mankind from starvation. Through the most terrible years of adversity there were food shortages; idle millions of men to feed over a long period. Waste on waste over a whole decade. But when relaxation came the races of men went back to the fields with a will. Save only in America, perhaps, where the appeal of the dignity and independence and security of God Almighty's open fields is silenced by the clangor and hum of the industrial centers.'"

Rumanian Embargo and Wheat Demand — The press of January 21 states that cabled advices January 20 reported that the recent Rumanian embargo on grain shipments is causing considerable inquiry for American wheat. Heavy buying of American flour in Poland was also reported. It was estimated that January sales of American flour totaled 50,000 barrels, and it was expected that an equal quantity would be bought by July.

Wheat Production and Prices — New York Commercial for January 21 says: "Given a wheat shortage and a high price for that grain in consequence, and up goes the wheat acreage of the world. Winter wheat seedlings in Europe, as reported to the United States Department of Agriculture by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, are below those of last year, the figures from seven European countries showing a reduction of about 4 per cent. But the decrease in Europe is not enough to offset the increase in areas seeded in the United States and Canada....The conditions of the seedlings in the United Kingdom is reported to be only fair--in fact, the reports from almost all wheat-growing countries abroad do not indicate that the prospects are bright for an exceptional yield this season. There has been too much sour weather and too much rain. The noteworthy feature in this business of wheat growing is the increase in acreage in the United States and Canada. Should there be a normal yield elsewhere in 1925, then the wheat farmers of both countries will find themselves where they have always been when too much wheat has been produced. It does not appear that our farmers who grow this grain, taken as a class, are capable of understanding their actual situation. They have a good, brisk foreign or export market for their surplus grain only when there is a crop failure in most other countries. There are too many places where wheat can be grown to make it probable that a general failure of the wheat crop in all countries but the United States will ever be more than a very rare circumstance. Last year was the great exception to what must be the general rule in this matter. And it is on such an uncertainty that our farmers, who were vainly trying to find a market for their surplus wheat a year ago, have now increased wheat acreage in this country. Experience is a hard schoolmaster but has been thought to be an efficacious one. That seems not to be the case when the pupil is a wheat grower."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 21: Northern sacked Round White potatoes mostly $1.25 to $1.40 in the Middle West; 87 to 95¢ f.o.b. New York and midwestern yellow onions ranged $2.50 to $3.25 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; mostly $2.85 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage mostly $23 to $28 bulk per ton, top of $30 in New York; mostly $18 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida strawberries in 32-quart crates and pony refrigerators mostly 30¢ to 40¢ quart basis in the East. New York Baldwin apples sold about steady at $5.25 to $6 per barrel in eastern cities, top of $7 in Chicago.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11 for the top and $9.90 to $10.90 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.50 to $12.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.65 to $11; light and medium weight veal calves $4.90 to $7.75; fat lambs $15.75 to $18.75; feeding lambs $15.25 to $17.85 and yearlings $13.50 to $17.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 38¢; Chicago 37 1/4¢; Philadelphia 39¢; Boston 39¢.

Grain prices quoted January 21: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.80 to $2.13. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.97 1/4; St. Louis $2.10 to $2.16; Kansas City $1.98 to $2.04. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.93; St. Louis $1.88; Kansas City $1.80 to $1.91. No.3 mixed corn Chicago $1.24; No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.22. No.2 yellow corn Kansas City $1.24. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.26 1/2 to $1.28 3/4; Minneapolis $1.28 3/4 to $1.30 3/4; St. Louis $1.27 to $1.29. No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.24. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.23; St. Louis $1.27. No.3 white oats Chicago 57 1/2 to 59¢; Minneapolis 53 1/2¢; St. Louis 60 to 61¢; Kansas City 59¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 4 points, closing at 23.50¢ per lb. New York January future contracts down 4 points, closing at 23.46¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 21,	Jan. 20,	Jan. 21, 1924
20 Industrials	122.11	121.74	97.28
20 R.R. stocks	98.49	98.46	80.85

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 22.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XVI, no.19 Section 1 January 23, 1925

CABINET SALARIES — The annual salary of members of the President's Cabinet would be $17,500, instead of $12,000, under a bill introduced yesterday by Representative Fish.

POSTAL BILL SIGNED — President Coolidge yesterday signed the Treasury-Post Office Appropriation bill, carrying $760,000,000, the largest amount ever provided during peacetime in a single piece of legislation, according to the press to-day.

OKLAHOMA REJECTS CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT — An Oklahoma City dispatch to the press to-day states that ratification of the Child Labor amendment to the Federal Constitution was defeated in the House of Representatives of the Oklahoma Legislature January 22. The vote was 80 to 24.

PACKERS' YARDS — General advances in livestock prices were predicted January 22 by J. P. Swift, a Kansas City commission merchant, before the Senate agricultural committee. Appearing in regard to the Capper bill, limiting operation of private stockyards by packers, Swift predicted hog prices would reach 15 cents a pound. Operation of private yards by packers, in competition with Government-regulated yards was declared by the witness wrong in principle, and particularly an evil in Kansas City. He had received 26,000 protests from livestock raisers in that territory, he said, against the operation of a private yard.(Press, Jan. 23.)

BULB GROWERS' PROTEST — A Toulon, France, dispatch to the press to-day states that the horticulturists of Southern France are planning a monster demonstration at Toulon soon in protest against the reported decision of the United States Government to forbid the importation of French flower bulbs. The privilege of exporting granted by the American Secretary of Agriculture in December, 1922, expires on December 31 next, and the narcissus, tulip and hyacinth growers of the Riviera are urging their representatives in the French Parliament to get the ban rescinded.

BARNES ON WHEAT MARKET — A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that denials that a corner in wheat was in prospect were issued January 22 by Julius H. Barnes and Arthur W. Cutten.

POUND TO HEAD WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY — A Madison, Wis., dispatch to the press to-day states that Roscoe Pound, Dean of the Harvard Law School, was elected President of the University of Wisconsin, succeeding President R. A. Birge, at an executive meeting of the board of regents January 21.

Section 2

Agricultural Legislation

Concluding a lengthy editorial review of the McNary-Haugen bill, the Capper-Williams bill, and the Curtis-Aswell bill, The Country Gentleman for January 24 says: "All three bills set up huge governmental machines with the power almost of life and death over everyone engaged in agriculture. All three are paternalistic and socialistic to the highest degree. They are in many ways as bad as anything that has been tried out in Russia by the Bolshevists. The McNary-Haugen bill is perhaps the least dangerous, because it is limited to five years of life. But all are pernicious. Any one of them if enacted into law would in the long run strike a harder blow to agriculture than even the depression of the past four years. Thousands of the leading farmers of the country believe as we believe. They are fearful of what might happen under a federalized, socialized, bureaucratized agriculture. Besides, they ask, what is the use of all this meddling? Why should the Government go into the farm business any more than into the shoe business or the grocery trade? The United States Department of Agriculture has grown beyond production facts and through the Bureau of Agricultural Economics it is equipped to foster and encourage farmers' cooperative enterprises. And that is all the farmers need--encouragement and business advice....."

British Cotton Growing

A Manchester (England) dispatch to the press of January 22 states that early this year there will be an offer of capital in a new company formed for the purpose of acquiring and developing an exclusive concession granted by the Iraq (Mesopotamia) Government for a large area of land suitable for cotton growing. The right has been granted to Sir John Norton-Griffiths, and covers an area of approximately 2,000,000 acres. It is understood that the capital of the new company will be 500,000 pounds, and that the directors will include Sir Auckland Geddes, former Ambassador to the United States, who will act as chairman of the new company; two well-known cotton spinners who between them control about one-sixth of Lancashire's staple industry, and a well-known industrialist. The capital has been underwritten.

Child Labor Law

An Albany dispatch to the press of January 22 says: "Farmers of New York State would consider ratification by the Legislature of the Federal Child Labor Amendment an infringement upon their rights to decide such matters for themselves, the State Agricultural Society decided at its seventh annual meeting here January 21, and as a result a resolution was adopted placing the organization on record against ratification of the amendment by New York."

Farm Product Imports

An editorial in The Wall St. Journal for January 22 says: "Much has been written and said recently about our exports. From this the inference is drawn that with large imports of agricultural products closely balancing American agriculture is losing out in the world market that our competitors are even beating us in our home markets. The exact opposite is nearer the truth. Official figures are not yet available f the last month of the calendar year. The returns of the Department of Commerce show the exports of agricultural products to the end of Novemb From the first of July to November 30 our exports of such products amou to $976,160,000 against $756,404,000 a year ago. The heavy exports of wheat and cotton, of course, account for most of this large increase. Exports of wheat and flour for that period were equal to 156,600,000 bushe valued at $225,600,000, compared with 86,000,000 bushels, valued at

$97,400,000 a year before. Exports of cotton for the five months amounted to 3,600,000 bales, worth $459,000,000, compared with 2,760,000 bales, valued at $399,000,000 in 1923. When the figures for the December exports are available it will be found that wheat and cotton together have further swelled this large total. To make a complete comparison of the export and import trade in agricultural products we must go back to the official returns for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924. That return shows that in that year agricultural products amounted to $1,866,897,000 and for the year preceding $1,799,168,000. This makes a total of $3,666,065,000 of exports in the two years. Against this is to be placed imports for the two years of $1,716,734,000 and $1,905,245,000, a total of $3,722,000,000. On the face of it this total would look as though foreign producers were coming into our home markets. However, nearly half of this total is made up of such articles as tea, coffee, rubber, silk, spices, tropical fruits and nuts, jute, hemp, drugs and other products that can not be raised in the United States. Forest products make up about $780,000,000 of this total. They include camphor, rattan, reed and other non-competitive products as well as lumber, shingles and woodpulp, for which we have good cause to be grateful to Canada. When we come to the products that are really competitive the quantity shipped into this country is trifling compared with our total products and seasonal reasons account for a great deal of it. The American farmer has his problems to meet in the foreign markets, but he is in no danger at present of any serious invasion of his home territory."

Forest Conservation

An editorial in The Washington Post for January 22 says: "It is to be hoped that Congress will take seriously the warnings, emanating from all sources, that the national forests are threatened with complete extinction. Ever since Theodore Roosevelt's emphatic messages first began to pour in upon it, describing the serious depletions of a once magnificent domain, neither Congress itself nor the country at large has given the matter its due weight. Presidents Taft and Wilson repeatedly urged the necessity of checking the savage waste of timber, but practically to no avail. Mr. Coolidge would do well to look into the situation for himself. Since Roosevelt's day the devastation has increased four-fold. When last summer it was announced that Canada, looking to her own interests, was considering an embargo upon wood pulp shipped to this country, the threatened shortage aroused the country for the first time to the scarcity of American timber reserves. It was found that the United States possessed scarcely any at all, barring a few patches in the Northwest and in Maine. The criminal policy of the lumber companies of chopping down young trees, making no attempt to replace them by planting shoots, has left the former vast tracts in the northern part of the country without means of recuperation. Congress should examine the situation with seriousness. It is not a question of setting aside a few acres of park here and there, but of preserving for posterity the noble woodlands throughout the country. Aside from the sentiment and scenic beauty attached to them, the all important questions of health and climate are involved. Americans of the future have a right to the benefit of trees. It can be secured to them by establishing regional divisions throughout the country, appointing commissioners to watch over them and supporting these officers in a vigorous policy of safeguarding wooded tracts. Cooperation of the States should be sought and the national administration of the forests should be assisted by local officers. After thousands of years of dense population many of the great forests of central Europe and

England are still standing, guardians of health and recreation to the people. Before it is too late, the United States should follow the example of other governments and institute a ruthless repression of the despoilment of its greatest natural endowment. It would be a far-sighted act if States should remove the heavy tax upon privately owned, 'unproductive' timber land. At all events, let Congress act--and act at once."

Livestock Financing

An editorial in Sioux City Live Stock Record for January 19 says "Reference has been seen, and read, lately of the 'breakdown of packer controlled livestock loan companies,' as one of the causes of the prese distressing situation in the cattle countries. A very large proportion of men who are directly interested in the livestock business on the breeding grounds, and from there all through the gamut of livestock production, feeding, marketing and on the distribution of livestock products into the channels of consumption, are perhaps thoroughly cognizan of the breakdown of the packer controlled livestock loan companies.They are at least aware that something has happened to the livestock loan business in recent years. As has been frequently stated, we are not a banker, nor a livestock loan man. Our only experiance with banks and bankers has been in the way of a suppliant, seeking accommodation, extension and mercy--facing the banker from the other side of the counter We plead guilty to knowing nothing of the banking business. But we wan to ask a question, to-wit: What brought about the breakdown of the pack controlled livestock loan companies? For thirty years and more there has been a lurking suspicion with us that the one principal objection to the packer controlled livestock loan business was found in the short time credit feature. It is not at all certain that the packer controll loan company could help itself in this. We are not certain, in fact it is our understanding that the packer is the biggest borrower of money i this whole country--and he does his borrowing on a short time basis. Through these livestock loan companies he was simply passing his short term credit along to the livestock man, and he could not make anything other than a short term loan to the cattle man. Hence his cattle loans were on beef cattle that would come into market not later than the expiration date of the short time loan. It has long been our contention that the packer, or any other cattle loan association, should be so situated as to provision for his credit that he could extend long time credit to an honest, industrious man who understands the cattle busines and it is our understanding that the 'packer controlled livestock loan company' was not in position to do this by reason of the terms upon which it could borrow the money with which to carry on its cattle loan business.. .The packer knew the livestock game; he knows it now. He also knows his credit ability. Why did his livestock loan system break down? We are not going to answer the question. But if you will sit down and quietly think over the agitation, the bills for curbing the packer that have been introduced, and the laws that have been enacted and placed in the hands of novices for enforcement during the past few years, an answer may suggest itself. It might suggest the question: Is it safe to tear down an established business system and supplant it with a theory in the hands of men who have no practical experience in a particular line?"

Marketing An Albany dispatch to the press of January 22 says: "In an address at the annual meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society, at Albany, January 21, C. F. Warren, professor of agricultural economics in the State college of agriculture at Cornell University, declared that 'the rapidly increasing problems of marketing, becoming more serious in the United States than in any other country, must be solved by scientific methods just as are the problems of chemistry and other sciences.' "

Milk Plants Change Hands A New York dispatch to the press of January 22 states that J.A.Coulter, a member of the executive committee of the Dairymen's League Co-operative Association, announced January 21 that effective February 1 The Borden Company would take over the five condensed milk plants which the association now operates. The transaction eliminates the league from the canned goods business, but it will continue as distributors of fluid milk and manufacturers of butter and cheese. It will increase the pool price now received by farmers and decrease the spread price between the classification and pool price, since it cuts down the overhead costs of operating the evaporation plants.

Production and Marketing An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for January 22 says: ".. Evidently the belief continues in the President's mind that the leadin problem before the farmer at the present time is one which has to do chiefly with methods of distribution and that these latter phases of agriculture will remain the crux of the situation for some years to com There is no other intelligible interpretation of the attitude assumed in connection with the agricultural post in the Cabinet. But with all due respect to the opinion of high officials at Washington, defects in our system of distribution of farm products are not basically responsible for whatever hardship is being endured in rural sections, and even the best designed and most efficiently executed reform in this directio can not be depended upon to remedy the situation. Probably some good can be done in this way if adequate wisdom and foresight are employed in the task, but the underlying causes of distress are to be sought elsewhere and must be otherwise removed if drastic change is to be wrought and made permanent. So long as supply of agricultural products outruns effective demand it may be taken for granted that the consumer will obtain the lion's share of any benefits accruing from better marke ing systems. All this assumes that marked economy in distribution migh easily be installed. That, however, is large assumption. There are defects aplenty no doubt in existing marketing systems. It is one thing, however, to call attention to such shortcoming or even to formulate improvements upon paper; it is, however, quite another to render proposed reforms really effective. Much improvement can be expected only from hard spade work on the part of forward-looking men who are not unduly hampered by the vote getting aspirations of office holders, and from methods which differ rather radically from those in common currency in a good many circles in the National Capital....The difficulties of the farmer are to be sought not so much in agricultural prices as in the value placed upon manufactured articles of commerce. In the latter branches of our economic life prices have been maintained by tariff duties, by labor monopolies and by sundry other means which have not and can not be successfully applied to agricultur We can bring the prices of farm products up into adjustment with other current values by sufficiently curtailing production on our farms and

ranges, but we are not likely to make much progress in that direction in any other way. What we really need most of all to do is so to order our general industrial life that costs and prices may be worked back to something like a parity with both agricultural values and the needs of the world situation. On questions involved in any such policy a marketing expert in the Department of Agriculture would be of but little service."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 22: New York sacked Round White potatoes closed at $1.35 to $1.50 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $1.05 to $1.10 f.o.b. Rochester. New York and midwestern yellow onions $2.85 to $3.25 per 100 pound sack in consuming centers; $2.85 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage ranged slightly lower at $23 to $28 bulk per ton in eastern cities; steady at $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. Texas Savoy spinach $1.25 to $1.75 per bushel basket, top of $2.25 in Philadelphia; $1.25 to $1.35 f.o.b. Laredo. New York Baldwin apples $5.50 to $6.25 per barrel, top of $7 in Chicago.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11 for the top and $9.80 to $10.85 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.25 to $12.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.75 to $10.50; feeder steers $4.90 to $7.75; light and medium weight veal calves $8.50 to $12.75; fat lambs $15.75 to $18.50; feeding lambs $15.50 to $18.25; yearlings $13.50 to $16.75 and fat ewes $7 to $11.25.

Grain prices quoted January 22: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.83 1/2 to $2.16 1/2. No.2 red winter Chicago $2.05 1/2; St.Louis $2.16; Kansas City $2.08. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.90 3/4; St.Louis $1.89 to $1.89 1/2; Kansas City $1.80 to $1.93. No.3 mixed corn Chicago $1.21 1/2; Kansas City $1.21 to $1.22. No.2 yellow corn Kansas City $1.25 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.27 1/2; Minneapolis $1.29 3/4 to $1.31 3/4; St. Louis $1.25 to $1.27. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.23 1/4to $1.27 1/4; St. Louis $1.27 1/2 to $1.28 1/2; No.3 white oats Chicago 57 1/4to 58 3/4¢; Minneapolis 55¢; St. Louis 59 1/2¢ to 60¢; Kansas City 59 1/2¢. No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.24 to $1.25.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 37 1/2¢; Boston 38 1/2¢; Philadelphia 38 1/2¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 13 points closing at 23.37¢ per lb. New York January future contracts down 11 points, closing at 23.35¢. (Prepared by Bur of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 22,	Jan. 21,	Jan. 22, 1924
20 Industrials	123.60	122.11	97.23
20 R.R. stocks	98.77	98.46	80.76

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 23.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVI, no.20 Section 1 January 24, 1925

BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Dun's review to-day says: "With strong basic conditions maintained, the general business outlook continues favorable. Despite increased irregularity in both demand and prices, there are still more points of gain than of loss, and the unusually large consumption of goods remains a prominent feature. Successive weekly returns of freight traffic show conclusively that distribution of merchandise is exceptionally heavy, car loadings being without precedent for this season, and most of the other statistical measures also make satisfactory comparisons."

HOOVER ON SCIENTIFIC SERVICE

The press to-day states that Secretary Hoover urged the engineers of America to "come out of their offices" and add the weight of their thought collectively to the thought of the Nation, in a speech delivered last night in Washington before a group of members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Mr. Hoover declared he would be perfectly willing to rest upon the judgment of the electrical engineers of America on such great questions as public versus private ownership of public utilities. "There is nothing so much needed in our Nation and our civilization to-day," the Secretary pointed out, "as a replacement of qualitative with quantitative thought." "Now we are in our development," he said, "much dominated by the economists. The economists are badly in need of a little engineering training. Theirs is to-day very largely a qualitative science. We need a cross breed here between the engineer's thought and the economist's thought, because between the two of them they are dominating modern civilization."

SILK FUTURES TRADING

Silk futures trading and the proposal to establish a silk exchange in New York was discussed at a meeting there January 22. According to George A. Post, of Post and Sheldon, who presided, the sentiment against establishing a silk exchange or futures market at New York was as strong as that for it. (Press, Jan. 23.)

OATS POOL FOR CANADA

A Calgary dispatch to the press of January 23 states that the United Farmers of Alberta January 22 unanimously approved the project of forming an oats pool at the earliest possible date.

MICE PLAGUE IN SLOVAKIA

A Prague dispatch to the press of January 23 states that the prospect for next summer's crop in Slovakia is arousing great anxiety there. Owing to continued drought, a veritable plague of mice has visited the agricultural districts of the Slovak counties. The vermin invaded the country from Russia by way of Poland. The damage thus far is estimated at $2,000,000. The peasants demand from the Government new seed amounting to many hundred carloads.

Section 2

Barnes on Wheat Market

In his denial that a corner in wheat was in prospect, Julius H. Barnes said in Chicago January 22: "My firm does not own a bushel of wheat in Chicago. American standard wheat is on an export basis to the great markets of the world. The fortunate large American crop is needed in every corner of the world. United States exports have trebled during the last few months, which means that export houses like ourselves have steadily bought in America as we sold abroad. My own foreign connections months ago indicated that successive crop shrinkages in Canada, Europe, and then in Argentina, forecast a coming scarcity of bread grains before the new crop. Certain farm leaders advised the farmer to rush his crop to market before election, stating that the early fall prices were artificially sustained for political purposes. More orderly marketing by the farmer would have secured a larger return then and would have retained more on the farm for the 50 cents advance since election. Last Monday trading in wheat in Europe was the largest ever known with countries ordinarily with an exportable surplus like Russia, Rumania and Bulgaria, buying wherever wheat could be found. Russia is not likely to be a factor in the market as long as there exists a Government that can confiscate by the stroke of a pen the savings of years." (Press, Jan. 23.)

Bread Formula

A Paris dispatch to the press of January 23 states that a journeyman baker claims to have found a formula for bread dough, the use of which will keep the loaves in an edible condition for ten months.

Cotton Costs

A New Orleans dispatch to the press of January 23 states that reduction in the cost of handling cotton at New Orleans that is expected to improve the business of the port has been ordered by the Dock Board. This reduction is on selling cotton ex-warehouse, and is now on the 36-cent basis. It was 46 cents. The cotton warehouse has reduced the handling charges about 50 per cent in the last three years. This season, to date, 1,444,617 bales of cotton have been handled at New Orleans as compared with 909,512 in the same period last year.

Delaware and South Dakota Oppose Child Labor Law

A dispatch from Delaware to the press of January 22 states that the Delaware House of Representatives January 21 unanimously adopted a joint resolution protesting against the ratification of the Child Labor constitutional amendment. The South Dakota Senate January 21 defeated, 35 to 6, a joint resolution ratifying the Child Labor amendment to the Federal Constitution.

French Wheat Duty

A Paris dispatch to the press of January 23 states that the French Minister of Agriculture has sent a circular to the various prefects which provides for a refund on customs duties exacted on all foreign wheat intended for grinding and delivering to bakeries.

Forestry Association Head

A Chicago dispatch to the press of January 23 states that George D. Pratt of New York, former conservation commissioner of the State of New York, January 22 was re-elected President of the American Forestry Association.

Grain and Meat Exports

Grain exports from the United States in 1924 registered a striking advance over those of 1923, the Commerce Department disclosed

January 22 in a report placing their value last year at $433,750,000, compared with $311,300,000 in the previous year, a difference of $122,450,000. Crop failures and damage abroad helped particularly to swell exports of wheat and wheat products. There were 166,302,000 bushels of wheat shipped abroad in 1924, valued at $237,114,000, while wheat-flour exports of 15,990,000 barrels were valued at $91,220,000, and wheat products, such as bread, biscuits and macaroni, added $3,000,000 to the total. A slight falling off in corn and rice exports was reported, but barley, rye and oats showed increases nearly comparable to the wheat figures. Simultaneously, the world cut down sharply its takings of American meats. In 1920 the exports of meat and meat products from the United States amounted to 149,967,743 pounds, valued at $1,036,608,101. In 1924 the total of such exports was 113,844,270 pounds, valued at $803,394,058. (Press, Jan. 23.)

McNary-Haugen Bill — According to the press of January 23, Senator McNary, it is understood, plans to introduce a modified McNary-Haugen bill as the basis for farm legislation at the present session of Congress. The House agricultural committee is said to favor the modified bill. It is understood that the modified bill allots the $60,000,000 accumulation of the War Finance Corporation as a revolving fund to an export corporation to be created; cuts out the ratio price proposal of the original measure and eliminates the proposition for buying wheat at the market price when surpluses are depressing the market.

An editorial on the subject in The Journal of Commerce for January 23 says: "An emasculated version of the McNary-Haugen bill, it is reported, is being urged for Congressional consideration by the American Council of Agriculture. The brief outline of the revised plan now available indicates that its proponents have not been greatly shaken by the arguments of those who so convincingly proved that the original bill violated fundamental economic principles and invited retaliatory measures on the part of foreign importing countries. The kernel of the original bill is retained intact, for the new plan, like the old, involves governmental control and subsidization of farm exports. It is reported that the modified measure eliminates those sections of the original bill providing for the establishment of price ratios; but it is not indicated in what way any export corporation can hope to aid the farmer except by influencing the prices which are obtained for farm products. Whether a formal ratio price is established or not, the main purpose of the McNary-Haugen bill (and presumably of the one now under contemplation) could not be attained except by studying the price situation and attempting to regulate purchases for export accordingly. If the Government is going into the export business as agent for the farmers of the country it can not avoid price fixing in some form or other. The McNary-Haugen bill at least has the virtue of honestly recognizing this fact. It would be a great misfortune if Congressional endorsement were secured for a new measure which retained all the dangers of the original proposal while concealing some of the dangerous price implications."

Mexican Trade — The Wall St. Journal for January 23 says: "Mexico has an abundance of petroleum for which the United States furnishes a ready market. The United States also has a surplus offoodstuffs and manufactured goods, for which Mexico offers an outlet for a substantial proportion. Thus, the two countries find a use for each other to their mutual benefit. Trade between the two countries approximates a quarter of a billion

dollars, or about 80 per cent of the total import and export trade of Mexico. It is a strange fact that, in a subtropical country like Mexico, its imports from this country should be so largely of foodstuffs. After foods come textiles, principally cotton cloths, and then machinery and automobiles, all adding to the well-being of American manufacturers... Judged by the budget estimates, efforts for betterment are being put forth as the allowance in aid of agriculture are comparatively large. It is understood also that the Government plans extensive irrigation work for the benefit of its farmers. The trouble with Mexican agriculture, however, is largely with the population, which is as backward as that of Russia to-day. Improvement must come through education as much as throu plans for irrigation and like ambitious projects. Education is necessary even to raise beans. Our own farmers are doing something toward supplying the Mexican market for foodstuffs. These include almost everything from eggs and meat to fruit, and these are the very things that we would expect Mexico to have in abundance. What is still more surprising is that the Mexican market in one year takes about 11,000,000 pounds of canned food from the United States. This is even worse than the people of southern Georgia buying canned peaches from California. As our own people do this we can not throw stones at the Mexicans. There is one pleasing thing in the official figures of trade between these two countries . It is the fact that the United States sells to Mexico more than three-quarters of all that it buys of foods, machinery and manufactured goods, practically dominating that market. If Mexico increases in prosperity and wealth there is no reason why the United States should not remain in the same position in relation to our nearest foreign market."

Wool Statistics A Providence, R.I., dispatch to the press of January 23 says: "The absence of authoritative statistics as to the supply of wool was deplored by Robert T. Francis, president of the American Association of Woolen and Worsted Manufacturers, at the sixth annual dinner of the Rhode Island Textile Association in Providence January 22. 'The controversy as to the amount of raw material,' he continued, 'serves to emphasize how unfortunate it is that the industry continues without definite information and authoritative data as to wool supplies, because there are manufacturers who fail to supply the required data to the Government. I would like to stress this point. I make no detailed reference to the world's supply of wool, as, frankly, I am not a student of statistics, and while there seems to be general accord that the supply of wool for the time being in this country is low (and perhaps subnormal in the world), there is a division of opinion as to the actual effect to be expected of this condition, having in mind among other causes the high levels now obtaining on raw materials. Experience tells us there is a point at which price will prove to be its own corrective, and in the absence of knowledge as to when that point may be reached--for peak prices do not announce themselves--it certainly behooves us to approach the future with serious consideration. The determining factor is consuming capacity, not the supply of wool, and we may hope some day our industry's small share in the cost of clothing will be established and made public.'"

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Jan. 23: Maine sacked Green Mountain potatoes $1.50 to $1.65 in New York and Philadelphia; bulk stock 75¢ to 80¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. Delaware and Maryland yellow sweet potatoes $2.25 to $2.50 per bushel hamper in a few markets. Tennessee Nancy Halls $2.50 to $2.75 in the Middle West. New York Danish type cabbage slightly weaker at $20 to $25 bulk per ton, top of $28 in New York; steady at $18 to $20 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples ranged $5.50 to $7 per barrel. New York and midwestern yellow onions dull, closing at $2.85 to $3.25 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; mostly $2.90 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11 for the top and $9.90 to $10.90 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.25 to $12.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.75 to $11; feeder steers $4.90 to $7.90; light and medium weight veal calves $8.50 to $12.50; fat lambs $16 to $18.75; feeding lambs $15.50 to $18.25; yearlings $13.75 to $17 and fat ewes $7 to $11.25.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 37 1/2¢; Chicago 37¢; Philadelphia 38 1/2¢; Boston 38 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted January 23: No.2 red winter St. Louis $2.15 to $2.18; Kansas City $2.05 to $2.10. No.4 red winter Chicago $2.04. No.3 hard winter wheat Chicago $1.90. No.2 hard winter wheat St.Louis $1.93; Kansas City $1.83 to $1.97. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.24 to $1.25; Minneapolis $1.26 3/4 to $1.28 3/4; St. Louis $1.25. No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.26. No.3 white corn St.Louis $1.28. No.3 white oats Chicago 56 3/4 to 58 1/4¢; Minneapolis 53 5/8¢; St. Louis 59 to 60¢. No.2 white oats Kansas City 61 1/2¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 33 points, closing at 23.04¢ per lb. New York March future contracts down 36 points closing at 23.19¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Jan. 23,	Jan. 22,	Jan. 23, 1924
20 Industrials	123.09	123.60	97.73
20 R.R.stocks	98.93	98.77	80.67

(Wall St. Jour., Jan. 24.)

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